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## The GEM

News, Sport, Letters,  
Features, What's On,  
Jobs, Motors...

# The Glamorgan **GEM**



"Your ORIGINAL priceless  
weekly newspaper"

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longest serving  
Community  
Newspaper

Established 1983

Weekly audited distribution (52 weeks) to 31/12/11 - 42,235  
(GEM Series). Audited by David Pinder & Co Ltd. Chartered Accountants.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST, 2012

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# Bridgend & Porthcawl GEM

[www.bridgend-today.co.uk](http://www.bridgend-today.co.uk)



"Your ORIGINAL priceless weekly newspaper"

The area's longest serving Community Newspaper  
*Established 1983*

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST, 2012

## OH, HAPPY DAY... school choir gets gospel feeling!



ABOVE: St Clare's School's choir recently sang with the London Community Gospel Choir in Swansea. (SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 3)

**Attempted burglary:  
Police appeal**

POLICE are appealing for information following an attempted burglary at a house on Gerddi Quarella, Bridgend, between 2.55pm and 3.30pm on Friday, October 19.

A spokeswoman stated that the resident returned home at approximately 3.45pm to find the lock on the back door had been damaged and the barrel pushed through.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Bridgend CID on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

[www.shampan.org.net](http://www.shampan.org.net)



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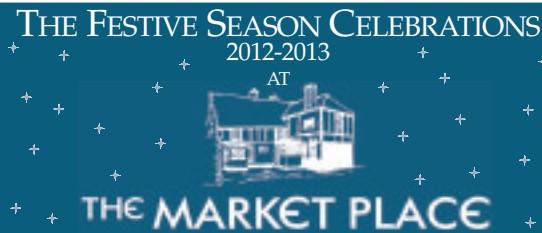
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## MAN STARTED BUSINESS AFTER BANKRUPTCY Jail sentence for couple who ran a cannabis farm



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by AJ SICLUNA

A FARMER'S complaint about dogs disturbing his cattle, has led to a man and his partner being jailed for a series of drugs offences at Cardiff Crown Court.

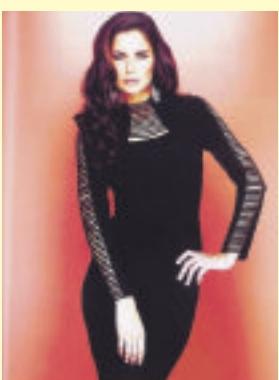
Police were called to the scene and discovered a cannabis factory in Pencoed, with a crop of the drug worth more than £51,000, said prosecutor Gareth James.

Richard Thomas, 47, of Eustace Drive, Bryncethin, was jailed for three years, four months, and Karen Desombre, 43, of the same address, was jailed for 20 months.

Both pleaded guilty to charges of producing cannabis and possessing cocaine.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)

Lo's



Little Black Dress Event

Glitz & Glamour'

Thursday 8th November  
 12pm - 6pm

20% off

29 High Street, Cowbridge  
 01446 772471

Join Sue and the girls for a glass of Champagne.

# Housing benefit and 'hidden unemployment' bones of contention in austerity Britain

KEEPING up with changes to the benefit system is a full time job. The age at which people have access to their pensions is changing.

Announcements of changes to employment benefits are made, then introduced many months later.

There is a need to constantly check with the DWP website to see when and if a change has been implemented. Understanding the impact of benefit changes is also difficult.

Often, newspaper articles reflect their political bias, rather than fully analysing the impact. My preference is to follow academic research from some of our leading universities.

As part of the austerity programme, several benefits are undergoing major reform at a dramatic pace.

This has meant a loss of income for many families across the country. However, recent academic research suggests that the factors behind benefit claims are yet to be fully understood, and that the changes may be too one-dimensional to address these problems at their source.

Government figures on unemployment levels are collected by claimant counts and surveys.

The claimant count is fairly accurate. This simply counts the number of people who claim and are paid an employment benefit.

The surveys, however, record people who cannot access benefits, perhaps because of lack of national insurance credits, who say they are currently looking for work.

Many feel that this fails to give a true indication of the size of the unemployed.

Every five years, Sheffield Hallam University research identifies the number of 'hidden unemployed'.

These are people who are on incapacity benefits and not applying for jobs, but who would like to work if there were more opportunities available, and adequate support to help them back into employment.

These figures show that not only is unemployment much higher than the government numbers, but that regional inequalities are also even deeper than is generally understood.

While current Government figures put unemployment at 2.54

## WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON reports exclusively from Westminster for The GEM.



million, the addition of the 'hidden unemployed' raises this to 3.44 million.

Sadly, hidden unemployment is more common in areas already known for high unemployment, which exacerbates regional differences.

The number of people who claim Job Seekers Allowance varies from 2.6 per cent to 5.5 per cent between the regions. Adding hidden unemployment doubles the gap between the most deprived and least deprived areas, with total unemployment varying from 6 per cent to 11.8 per cent.

*The highest areas are concentrated in former mining areas, including Blaenau Gwent, Merthyr Tydfil and Caerphilly, and four steel towns, including Port Talbot.*

In contrast, the lowest unemployment is found in rural areas of southern England.

The report highlights that what the 'hidden unemployed' want is personal back-to-work support.

What remains controversial is the response of withdrawing benefit unless individuals meet certain criteria and behaviour.

Governments must look at the demand for labour, particularly in the poorer regions, by reskilling those in former industrial areas, improving infrastructure and engaging with public health concerns.

With the focus on the individual comes evidence that there is a failure to protect those who could not work in any circumstances.

The hidden unemployed identified by Sheffield Hallam represent only 35 per cent of those on incapacity benefit. In response to my questions in Parliament, however, ministers have told me they expect 60 per cent of those who have their benefit claim assessed to be found fit for work.

Another area of the benefit system that is due for restructuring is housing benefit.

In opinion polling, it has often proven housing benefit is unpopular with voters, being seen as a

drain. In social housing, those with a spare room face a cut to their housing benefit of up to 25 per cent on the grounds of under-occupation.

However, the Government refused an amendment that would exempt people from losing income if there was no smaller property available. In the private sector, people who are under 35 can only access the shared accommodation rate of housing benefit. Yet it is estimated that only five per cent of the housing market would be able to accommodate these under 35s, many of whom will end up out of pocket and potentially homeless.

There is also growing concern that a parent who is under 35 and forced to live in shared accommodation will be unable to have overnight access to their children, as there will be no separate bedroom for them to stay in.

It is only fair that governments looks at individuals' circumstances, and creates the right incentives in areas like employment and housing.

But the contract must be kept on both sides, and employment and housing choices must be made available if these benefit reforms are to be seen as a matter of fairness, rather than simple budget savings.

*The unequal distribution of poverty and unemployment across the country must also be tackled, so that the barriers to the creation of new jobs and investment in areas with high unemployment are tackled.*

## A crafty way to discover nature!

NATURAL craft workshops are being held at Kenfig National Nature Reserve this winter, aimed at children aged between eight and 12 – though anyone is welcome to create crafts using a diverse range of natural materials.

They will be held on November 4 and November 18 (1pm-4pm); and there will be a Christmas crafts session on Sunday, December 2 (1pm-4pm).

For more information, contact David Carrington on 01656 743386.

will be shown how to make beautiful bird feeders and bracelets, plus other unique and unusual items to take home.

"During the Christmas event, you can get into the holiday spirit by creating willow wreathes, Christmas cards from recycled materials and driftwood Christmas trees.

All materials will be provided for the activity. The cost is £3.50, booking is essential and children must be accompanied by an adult.

A spokesman explained: "Using organic materials, you

# Disbanded charity's cheque puts disabled on the road



Coun Lyn Morgan, accepts a cheque from Michael Clarke of the Victoria Project, alongside service users at Pyle Life Centre.

A NEW vehicle has joined Bridgend County Borough Council's learning disability fleet, thanks to a generous donation from a former charity.

The Victoria Project Ltd ran a local residential accommodation service for six people with a learning disability for more than 20 years until 2006, when it was disbanded.

Last year, remaining committee members decided they wished to give cash from the final accounts to Bridgend County Borough Council's Day Services for an adapted vehicle.

They especially requested the vehicle be used for the benefit of local service users, as some people who lived in the house that the project used to run now attend the Pyle/Porthcawl Adult Support Centre.

The vehicle has now been bought, and will be based at the centre as part of the learning disability fleet.

Accepting a cheque for nearly £22,000 for the new vehicle, Coun Lyn Morgan, BCBC cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "We are so grateful for such a generous donation, and we are touched that remaining committee members wished to continue the link with those service users attending our Pyle/Porthcawl Adult Support Centre."

"These are expensive vehicles, but it is money well spent and will provide local adults with a learning disability with safe, efficient transport."

Michael Clarke from the Victoria Project Ltd,

## Quiz League ROUND-UP

ON Monday, October 22, in Division One, only one team failed to get 40 or more.

Champions Llangueddwyr Arms garnered 51 points against a good Crown Inn 'A' side, who made 44.

Tondu Railway Club beat Pheasant Poachers 43-38, followed by two matches which finished with a one-point winning margin.

Mackworth Arms just pipped Oldcastle 'A' by 48-47 and Tyrsia Nomads, who had led Tyrsia Royals throughout, would have won if they had gone second on the final question, but they had to go first and lost 44-43.

In the second division, Greenmeadow were again top scorers. They led 27-24 after the written section, got all their individual questions correct plus two bonuses, and came away from Oldcastle 'B' with a 52-41 victory.

Carbo Roche won 49-33 against Pyle RFC, and the Laleston Inn derby ended with the A's, 44-41.

team beating the 'Bs' 47-42.

The only other game was closer, as Pheasant Gamekeepers lost at home to Coychurch Wanderers by 47-44.

Here are your four posers:

1. What popular name was given to the war that started in 1756 when Prussia attacked Saxony and eventually involved all the great powers of Europe?

2. Which ship was opened as a tourist attraction at Leith in Edinburgh in October 1988?

3. After England's success in winning the Ashes in 2005, which batsman was appointed an honorary president of Bristol City Football Club?

4. What is the Royal Navy equivalent of a Brigadier in the Army?

A RUDGE (for Quiz League)

ANSWERS:  
1 Seven Years War  
2 Royal Yacht Britannia  
3 Marcus Trescothick  
4 Commando

## XANADU PRODUCTIONS plan to turn 'pop into pounds'

2013. Now planning to expand its portfolio of music, Xanadu director Peter Phillips is looking to WOMEX as the catalyst to bring artists and bands to a brand new, world music and roots-themed festival in Wales.

With a launch planned to take place in the next 12 to 18-months, he believes the new event has the potential to generate an estimated £2million for the local economy.

Peter said: "We know there is an opening for a world music event in Wales, and WOMEX gave us the perfect opportunity to find out what's on offer in the genre, and how we can bring these acts back to Wales."

A Welsh Government strategy to develop creative industries saw experts attend, with the aim of pumping money back into the Welsh economy before Cardiff turns host to the expo in

## HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL NOVEMBER 8)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20-25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
01 Thur	07.24	9.5	19.38	9.3
02 Fri	07.57	9.3	20.11	9.2
03 Sat	08.28	9.1	20.47	8.9
04 Sun	09.01	8.7	21.21	8.5
05 Mon	09.39	8.4	22.04	8.1
06 Tues	10.26	8.0	22.51	7.7
07 Wed	11.19	7.7		
08 Thur	00.09	7.6	12.45	7.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

# Co-Op staff walk for 24 hours to support Chloe Bigmore Trust

**THREE** staff from the Porthcawl branch of the Co-operative have walked continuously for 24 hours, covering 52 miles, in a bid to raise money for charity.

Rebecca Morgan (18), from Pencoed, Kev Dickinson (29), of Porthcawl, and Bridgend's Glen Davies (21) set off from their branch at 10am on October 20, and headed straight along the coastal path past Margam and Port Talbot, before hitting Swansea.

They were fundraising for the Chloe Bigmore Trust, which aims to raise enough money to purchase a house in the area for families with terminally ill children to visit to escape the pressures of everyday life.

They stopped for an hour in Swansea at

Rebecca's student accommodation, where she is studying Welsh and history at Swansea University, and to take on warm food and drink before heading to the Mumbles.

Rebecca told The GEM that due to the dark and being unsure of the area, they then returned to Porthcawl by car to finish the rest of the challenge in more familiar surroundings.

She said: "My feet were really badly blistered and I wasn't in a good state. It was very, very difficult, tougher than we thought."

"We were struggling to stay awake but were determined to finish. We were more comfortable walking somewhere we know."

"The toughest part was throughout the night. There was both physical and mental tiredness but there were no arguments, we kept each other going."

Rebecca also paid tribute to her two companions, among others, who helped along the way.

She continued: "I'd like to thank the boys, without whom I couldn't have finished. They carried my rucksack for me when I was really struggling."

"Then we had people who came out to bring us warm food and drink and follow us through the night to make sure we were okay – Richard Jones, Pat and Mike Harbottle, John Morgan



LEFT to RIGHT: Kev Dickinson, Glen Davies and Rebecca Morgan prepare to set off on their 24-hour walk for charity.

and Gareth Davies especially."

"I'll probably never do anything so extreme again, but it was a massive achievement and I'll definitely do charity work again."

The walk alone raised around £1,000, with collections ongoing. More events, such as an in-store leg wax are planned, so to donate, pop in to the store in Porthcawl.

Leigh Gruffydd Sanders

## News from Laleston WI

**THE October meeting was the usual busy affair and the president was most happy to welcome two prospective new members.**

Previous minutes and the county letter were read and arrangements were made for future events: Autumn council meeting at the pavilion on November 5; Luncheon club at El Prado on October 9; educational trip to Cardiff Museum on October 17

A team of four members had taken part in the WI quiz at the Hi Tide, Porthcawl.

The guest for the evening was Mr Brian Haberfield who gave a presentation of his photography, including 'Seascapes', views of the south Wales coast, Port Meirion, Bodnant Gardens and Prague, accompanied by music.

Since the meeting, some members had attended a 'What makes Wales Welsh' day at Llanharry. The educational day took place at Cardiff Museum, which was much enjoyed, as most members had not visited the museum for a long time. The day ended at The Aubrey Arms.

The next meeting on November 1 at 7.15pm in Gardening Club. JR

# St Clare's pupils join London Community Gospel Choir on stage

**SINGING** stars from a Porthcawl school had a "happy day" recently, joining a world-famous choir on-stage.

St Clare's School's choir watched London Community Gospel Choir at the Grand Theatre, Swansea, as part of their extra-curricular activities. Part of the largest group of independent schools in the UK, Cognita Schools, St Clare's is an independent day school for children aged between two and a half and 18 years of age.

The award-winning choir, who have performed with stars such as Elton John, George Michael and Kylie Minogue, were so impressed with the Newton school pupils they invited them up to perform in front of the audience.



Rebecca Lewis tackles a gospel classic.

Rebecca Lewis (17) who led an acapella version of 'Oh Happy Day', said: "We are used to singing in front of audiences with St Clare's but the experience at the Grand Theatre was out of this world."

"The school really supports me in achieving my potential and

now I've got a taste for it, I hope it's not the last time I get to play venues like this!"

St Clare's teacher, Jessica Rolls said: "It was a superb night and testament to the talent of our pupils that they made such an impression on these international stars."

## MP SUPPORTS MISSING PERSONS' CHARITY

**BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon, joined families of missing people on October 23, to pledge support for the charity Missing People, which is seeking legislative support for families fighting the bureaucracy and heartache of resolving or managing a missing loved one's affairs.**

She met Peter Lawrence, father of missing Claudia, and Claire Chandler, whose partner went missing in February 2011. Mrs Moon signed a postcard to formally show her support for the campaign.

The charity Missing People has campaigned for a number of years to secure support for families and ensure that anyone affected by the 'missing' issue is spared any unnecessary anguish caused by financial and legal bureaucracy.

Mrs Moon said:

"Families are devastated when a loved one goes missing and this is exacerbated by the difficult-

ties they can face in trying to manage the missing person's affairs and dealing with the bureaucracy that accompanies it.

"I am pleased to support this worthwhile campaign and its aims to help these families.

"I will look to support legislation that is brought forward to assist these families and spare them unnecessary pain."

More information about the campaign can be found at HYPERLINK "<http://www.missingpeople.org.uk/>"



ABOVE: Madeleine Moon signs up to support the charity.

## CRIME AT FIRST HAND

**THE Tory candidate for south Wales Police and Crime Commissioner became a victim of crime herself recently.**

The Baker Boy café in Porthcawl, owned by Caroline Jones, was broken into in the early hours of Sunday morning.

"Fortunately, no-one was hurt but there was extensive damage to the front of the building," she said, adding: "This incident is a clear reminder that there is more to be done to tackle anti-social behaviour and if elected, that is exactly what I will do."

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## Maesteg cadets go up, up and away by glider



ABOVE: Cadet Chelsea Cahill in a Vigilant motor glider.

**Three Cadets from 631 (Maesteg) Squadron Air Training Corps took the opportunity to fly in gliders last weekend at 636 Volunteer Gliding Squadron (VGS) based at Swansea Airport.**

Sergeant Chris Raymond, Corporal David Lakin and Cadet Chelsea Cahill each flew half-hour sorties as part of their gliding induction course.

These build up flying skills so that they can, if they wish, go on to a gliding scholarship course that trains them to solo standard on Vigilant motor gliders.

Built in Germany, the Vigilant is a two-seat training motor-glider with a 17.4m wingspan and cruises at 60 knots.

## A touch of Ethiopia comes to Porthcawl

**SUSSED will celebrate its partnership with Valley and Vale community arts, and gem art by dazzling James Street on November 9 at 7.30pm, at S U S S E D , Porthcawl; £3 entry.**

The award-winning Ethiopian and Welsh dance collaboration, includes traditional Ethiopian music, and authentic Ethiopian food at the launch of Gemini-SUSSSED.

World-renowned dancers, Junaid Jemal Sendi and Addisu Demissie, will be

demonstrating their unique mix of contemporary dance with traditional Ethiopian influences.

SUSSSED employee, Michael Gore, said: "Junaid and Addisu have been dancing together in Addis Ababa since they were 12 years old, where they were spotted by the charity, Dance United, and have gone on to achieve greatness across Europe.

"They now work with the Adugna community dance theatre company in Addis Ababa; changing the lives of disadvantaged young people through dance."

Junaid will be performing at the event with Welsh dancer/choreographer Jessie Brett.

On behalf of the directors of SUSSSED, Margaret Minchinick, explained: "All of this is to celebrate the new partnership between Porthcawl community cooperative, SUSSSED, and the Ethiopian NGO, Gem Art. Gem Art is part of the Gemini Foundation, which was set up 25 years ago in the slums of Addis Ababa to help the families of twins."

THERE will be a Halo Hallowe'en pool party at Bridgend Recreation Centre on Saturday, November 3, between 6pm-8pm. For further information, call 0300 012 1223 option 1, or ask at reception.

## Pool party

The squad meet at Upper Street, Maesteg, on a Tuesday and Friday evening and welcome boys and girls aged 13 and over.

The squadron also welcomes adults who would like to help.

They do not need to have previous ATC or RAF experience, and can serve either in a uniformed or civilian instructor capacity.

JOHN FINCH

Did you know  
you can read  
**The GEM online?**  
bridgend-today.co.uk

# St Clare's pupils and parents relish their new dining hall!

**RIGHT:**  
Chef manager Debbie Kerswell gives pupils and parents a taste of the St Clare's menu:  
Olivia Thorne, parent  
Jacqui Rava, chef  
Debbie Kerswell, parent  
Leanne Walker, Mithun Padmanaban

A PORTHCAWL school has received the thumbs-up from pupils and parents at the opening of its tasty new dining hall.

At St Clare's School, Newton, students and their parents were invited to feast on a variety of options from the school's new menu – to showcase the nutritious and balanced meals now on offer.

These included tasters of homemade sweet and sour chicken with steamed rice, roasted vegetables and apple and cinnamon crumble.

The independent day school for children aged between two and a half and 18 years of age, now has a new wooden-clad hall with state-of-the-art kitchen, which fits sympathetically into its historic surroundings.

St Clare's has appointed a new catering company, Thomas Franks, led by chef manager Debbie Kerswell, who, with her team, has developed an imaginative programme of menus to "encourage a positive attitude



towards a healthy diet for pupils and staff.

Debbie said: "We have created menus that will help pupils of all ages keep concentration levels high during lessons after lunch, and provide them with the energy they need for sport in the afternoon. It is very important that the children eat a bal-

anced diet; and that we make healthy eating fun, so that it creates good habits which will continue through their lives."

The nutritious menus will vary from week to week, and include traditional wholesome fare alongside light and refreshing alternatives. Themed days at least

once a month will showcase food from around the world, and the school will hold various events and activities throughout the year to show children firsthand the benefits of healthy eating.

St Clare's headmaster, John Aguilar, commented: "At St Clare's School, we work hard to set our pupils up for success in the future, and promoting healthy eating is a crucial part of this.

"It has been proven that diet has a significant effect on attentiveness and performance from the classroom to the playing field.

"We firmly believe in promoting an understanding of, and commitment to, healthy eating.

"The thumbs-up we've received from parents and pupils suggests they hold the same values."

Headed by leading educationalist, Sir Chris Woodhead, the school's parent group Cognita is run by education experts with specialist expertise in all areas of independent education.

## Young farmers celebrate harvest

BRIDGEND YFC's annual harvest service was recently held at All Saints' Church in Porthcawl.

The church was beautifully decorated the night before with fruit and vegetables donated by members and friends of the club.

It was a lovely service with many of the members doing readings along with Father Philip Masson and Fr Craig Vaughan. David Rees, a club member, also sang Bugeilio'r Gwenith Gwyn as a solo. A collection during the service raised £245, half of which was given as a donation to the church.

After the service an auction was held of the offerings with baskets of fruit and vegetables, flowers, walking sticks, chocolates and drinks sold.

BETHAN EVANS  
Press secretary

Mrs Holland – 10 Nottage Road, Porthcawl – 30 per cent crown reduction and crown raise to 6m over highway of 3 x London plane.

BCBC ICT and Property – Pyle Life Centre, Helyg Fan, Pyle – change of use from Class D1 and D2 to B1, B8, D1 and D2 (mixed use) and internal partition alterations.

Mrs B Sheppard – 85 Heol Llan, North Cornelly – Single storey rear extension with associated works.

South Wales Estates – Florentine 1, Commercial Street, Ogmore

The auction raised £385, with proceeds this year going to the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution, Bridgend YFC and Wales Air Ambulance.

Our club leaders were on hand to serve tea and coffee and everyone helped themselves to the light refreshments on offer, kindly donated by members, family and friends of the club.

On behalf of Bridgend YFC we would like to thank The Rector and churchwardens for the use of the church, Daniel Pugh-Bevan for playing the organ on the night, John Griffiths our auctioneer and all who have helped with the organisation of the service.

BETHAN EVANS  
Press secretary

## WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT AND WHERE?

Vale – Change of existing use from A1 retail to A3 takeaway for consumption of hot food off the premises.

Mr Dean Taylor – The Braichymmer Hotel, Pleasant View, Pontypridd – Change of use of first floor living accommodation to function room and new external staircase.

Penybont Real Estate Company Ltd – Rear of 45 John Street, Porthcawl – Conversion of store/garage building into single small office.

Hafod Housing Association Ltd – Land at Dunraven Street,

– External wall insulation. Mr Ron Morgan – Plot 44, Porth y Castell, Coity – Conservatory to rear.

Mr Philip Petty – Crossing Cottage, Lamb Row, South Cornelly – Variation of condition 3 of consent P/08/4/FUL to provide replacement parking to the rear of crossing cottage.

Mr Mathew Taylor – 2 Cefn Cross, Cefn Road, Cefn Cribwr – Create hardstanding to front of dwelling and create new access onto classified road.

Bassett's (South Wales) Ltd – Land at Dunraven Street,

Bridgend Industrial Estate, Bridgend – Construction of new car sales and associated servicing workshop.

Mr P Hurd – Maes yr Haf, Keir Hardie Road, Maesteg – Erect 1.5 extension and Juliet balcony to side, demolish double garage and erect new detached double garage.

Nantyffyllon RFC – Blosse Street, Nantyffyllon, Maesteg – Demolish clubhouse and construct new clubhouse and all weather pitch and relocate main outdoor pitch.

Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC –

## Maesteg Community Hospital: LEAGUE OF FRIENDS UPDATE

NEXT year marks the centenary of Maesteg hospital, and events are being planned to celebrate the occasion, a correspondent reports.

The foundation stones, which can be seen on the front of Maesteg Community Hospital, were laid on October 15, 1913.

On the same day, an engraved silver trowel was presented by the architect, J Humphreys, Esq to J Lipscombe, Esq JP, to commemorate the laying of the first stone.

Some of the funding for the building of the hospital was donated by the many miners who were working in the local collieries at the time, and it was known as the miners' hospital for many years.

Patients were admitted to the hospital in the following years, many of whom were injured soldiers returning from the First World War.

There is a collage of photographs in the foyer of the main building picturing many of those who were treated in the hospital at the time.

### FRIENDS' ROLE

In 1962, the Maesteg Community Hospital League of Friends was formed with the aim of raising funding to provide items of equipment for the patients at the hospital.

Every year since then the League has held a fete and invited everyone from the town to come along to support their local hospital.

Over the years, they have raised almost £300,000 which has



Find out where this youngster has been on page 6 of this week's GEM.

## Victorian Christmas

BRYNGARW House and Country Park in Brynmelyn, Bridgend, will be hosting a Christmas-themed weekend with a Victorian twist on December 15-16 between 11am-5pm.

'A Victorian Christmas' this year will be packed with even more fun festivities, with a festive market with locally produced foods and crafts, Victorian-themed rides including swing boats, a children's toy set ride and an octopus ride.

There will be festive Christmas music played on a barrel organ together with a brass band. Victorian storytellers will tell the story of how Christmas would have played out in houses during the Victorian period.

been spent on equipment and comforts for the patients, including the provision of a sound proof room for hearing tests, a special Hi-Lo Bath and Hoist, Christmas gifts each year for the patients and numerous other items.

games which will be ready for next year. They aim to raise £10,000 to decorate and furnish a comfortable room where relatives of those who are very poorly will be able to stay.

They would welcome any new ideas for stalls or fundraising.

The League is very lucky to have the support of other community groups who man the many stalls and attractions.

They are very grateful for the help and support of these groups and individuals, without whom the fete could not take place.

The League also receives sponsorship from many local people and organisations who give donations and legacies to help them supply items requested by the dedicated nursing and administrative staff.

*The League is looking for people who could give a small amount of time, either to be on the organising committee, or to help out on the day of the fete, which will be on June 19 in 2013. There will also be a concert on June 21.*

*If you can help in any way, please contact their chairman, Mr John Thomas on 01639 896118 or e-mail the secretary at [lm.williams@talktalk.net](mailto:lm.williams@talktalk.net)*

## Parents urged to make a 'Fresh Start' with kids

FRESH Start Wales, the Welsh Government initiative to reduce children's exposure to second-hand smoke in cars, is coming to Bridgend Designer Outlet this Saturday, November 3.

Part of the 'Make a Wish' campaign Patch the Fresh Start dragon and the Fresh Start Wales ambassadors are asking parents and carers to pledge their support to the campaign by not smoking in cars carrying children.

The team will be handing out branded

Fresh Start Wales rain ponchos, shopping bags and miniature rugby balls, and there will be an entertainer making balloon cars and a colouring station.

Children will have the opportunity to have their photo taken with Patch, in the Fresh Start gazebo, while parents will be encouraged to take part in breath-testing to measure their CO levels.

Families in Bridgend who want to show support for the campaign can sign the online pledge at [Facebook.com/FreshStartWales](http://Facebook.com/FreshStartWales), or at [www.freshstartwales.co.uk](http://www.freshstartwales.co.uk).

Mr and Mrs R James – Pyllau House, Coytahen – Lawful development certificate for an existing use of the land as garden curtilage.

The Planning Inspectorate – Swansea Bay, Swansea – Proposed tidal lagoon.

Mr Stone – 15 Heather Close, Sarn – Conservatory to rear elevation.

Mr Woodland – 63 Hendre Road, Pencoed – Edwardian conservatory to rear.

Mr L Crumbie – 43 Oaklands Avenue, Bridgend – Rear conservatory to semi-detached bungalow.

# Full marks for entries in Pyle & Porthcawl photo competition!



LEFT:  
The winning entry,  
'Red Deer Stag at Dawn'  
by Paul Rosser



ABOVE: 'Window World' by Richard Craze

**PYLE and Porthcawl Photographic Society** held its annual Dennis Line Memorial Trophy competition on October 18, at the Rest in Porthcawl.

The competition was for both prints and digital projected images, and each member could enter up to four images.

John Davies, who not only awarded the marks, but also provided a critique on each image, judged the competition.

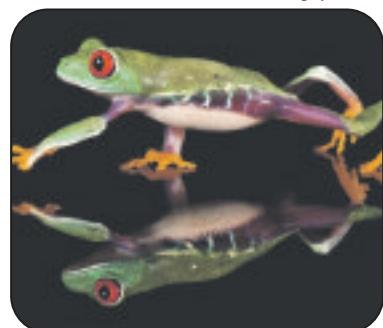
First place was a tie between the print 'Red Deer Stag at Dawn' by Paul Rosser and the digital image 'Red-eyed Tree Frog' by Trevor Owen, with both achieving a mark of 20 out of 20. After due consideration, the trophy was awarded to Paul Rosser.

Glyn Edmunds with 'Squawk!', Dan Minto with 'Round the Pole' and Geoffrey Baker with 'Wings' all recorded 19 points. Glyn Edmunds with 'Look into my Eyes', Martin Derbyshire with 'BBE Expired', Richard Craze with 'Window World' and John Corcoran with both 'Waiting Game' and 'Waiting', all scored 18 points.

Congratulations to Paul for winning such a close-run competition and a big thank you to all who took part and made it such an interesting and entertaining evening.



Winner Paul Rosser takes the trophy.



'Red-eyed Tree Frog' by Trevor Owen



'Round The Pole' by Dan Minto

## BROADWAY IN PORTHCawl



The Broadway chorus aims to make things go with a swing.

### Bridgend's budding stars make their mark on stage and on TV

OVER the summer, several local children had the opportunity to work on top TV programmes, thanks to The Big Talent School and Agency, which has roots in Bridgend.

The co-founder of the company, Leigh-Ann Regan also has an agency for adults, Regan Rimmer Management, and is also a successful casting director.

Corey Wickenden (12) of Brackla, a pupil at Brynteg Comprehensive, has just finished playing the child lead, Peter, in Harvey Weinstein's major new musical, *Finding Neverland* at the Leicester Curve theatre.

His father played Buddy Holly in the West End and his mother Penny is principal of dance school Performing Arts Cymru.

"We have had such lovely compliments from all the cast and crew about Corey's professionalism."

"Being proud doesn't seem a big enough word," said mum, Penny.

Nathan Williams (15) is also a pupil at Brynteg Comprehensive. His first professional acting job was a TV commercial for Sega, but this autumn he plays Bryn in the new series of *Wolfblood* on CBBC.

Tom Herbert (9) of Porthcawl, has appeared in two TV commercials for Nestle Maggi and Pets at Home.

This summer he spent a week filming on *Casualty*, playing Bobby across two

episodes and most recently worked on the hit series *Being Human*.

Jack Williams (11) of Bridgend, starred in a BBC1's My Shout film, entitled *Lovestruck*, that has been winning awards around the world.

He has also worked with Ray Winstone on the film *Jerusalem*.

Leigh-Ann, a Bridgend resident for the past eight years,

said: "It's great to see local talent doing so well on the national stage and screen."

"It's taken years to build up our contacts as agents and it's a privilege to be able to introduce the major casting directors in this country to the next generation of actors."

"Watch out for these boys – they're going to be Big!"

### Y Centre

THE GEM reported last week on the upcoming re-opening of the refurbished Y Centre in Porthcawl on November 7.

Y Centre would like it to be known that this project has been supported by the Community Economic Development (CED) programme, delivered in partnership by a six-valley local authority consortium of Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Torfaen.

The CED programme is supported by the European Regional Development Fund through the Welsh Government.

THE autumn 'Broadway' show, presented by Porthcawl Operatic Society, takes place at 7.30pm in the Grand Pavilion on Saturday, November 24.

New guests are the Phil Dando Big Band and the Sarah Burnell School of Dance and the Broadway Kids will also join the show, to present their own take on songs from *Whistle Down The Wind*, *Oliver and Willy Wonka*.

Other popular show-stoppers include items from *The King and I*, *Sweeney Todd* and *My Fair Lady*.

Phil Dando provides music from the Big Band era.

Contact 01656 815995 for tickets.

## New airport is needed – to put Wales on the map!

### Reader's view

IT was with interest that I read the letter from Mr Luke Nicholas recently published in The GEM, regarding the status of Cardiff Airport, headed 'Assembly must have a stake in the airport'.

What he says is perfectly true and the current owners seem to be showing little interest in developing or investing in the airport further.

It is not surprising to hear that Bristol Airport is booming, with flights from there being far less expensive than those from Cardiff Airport.

Cardiff Airport's location can hardly be described as convenient either, with it being closer to Barry and around 12 miles from Cardiff city centre.

Even more from the M4 corridor!

I personally do not feel that flying into Cardiff Airport can be considered a pleasurable experience, or a good advertisement for Wales, given its current location and status.

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# Tractor Boys of Aberthin put on a special day for a special pair of young twin sisters

**PHOTOGRAPHS**  
by **GLYN EVANS**

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Visit our studio in the Wool Barn,  
Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

THE Tractor Boys of Aberthin staged one of their charity runs last Sunday (October 28) – and a local six-year-old girl was the star guest.

The event was in aid of Elena Wyatt, who suffers from Mowat Wilson Syndrome (MWS), and aimed to raise awareness of the condition.

Elena and her twin sister Louisa joined other children who were able to ride on the tractors and enjoy the day.

*For a full report on Elena, and how she copes with MWS, see page 34.*



ABOVE: Elena Wyatt was the star guest.

ABOVE: Elena's twin sister, Louisa (right) with a friend.

# Kenfig Hill Cadets get tour of MoD St Athan

ON October 20, Hunter Flying Ltd based at MoD St Athan slid back its hangar doors to welcome RAF Air Cadets and staff from Kenfig Hill, Porthcawl, Cowbridge and Pencoed.

The visit was arranged by Sgt (ATC) Kevin Gould of 2117 Kenfig Hill Squadron and John Sparks, chief engineer, welcomed the Cadets into the facility.

Two engineers showed them around the various aircraft, which included a number of Hawker Hunters, the type of aircraft that is the Squadron Gate Guard in Kenfig Hill.

There was the opportunity to look inside a number of aircraft being restored at the facility, which

include four Czech built L-29 aircraft that will form a new air display team for next year, and a rare Gannett XL500, that is on a two-year rebuild to restore it to flying condition.

At the end of the tour, Instructor Staff Cadet Warrant Officer Nico Fitzgibbon presented a 2117 Kenfig Hill plaque to John Sparks.

The Cadets were then taken to have a look at two Canadian water bombers parked outside another of the new companies at St Athan, Cardiff Aviation Ltd, a photo of which can be seen on the Squadron's Facebook page.

LINDSAY THOMAS  
(Secretary, Civilian Committee)



ISCWO Fitzgibbon presenting the plaque (above) to John Sparks.

## Call goes out for Befrienders!



LEFT: Joyce Rayer and her Community Companions volunteer Liz Elis

**A COMMUNITY Companions befriending scheme funded by the Big Lottery Fund helps socially-isolated people over 50 in Bridgend county borough to meet new people, improve access to local services and improve their health and well-being.**

Led by BAVO in partnership with other organisations, it is appealing for more men to volunteer!

"Our volunteers may befriend an older person by visiting them in their own home for a couple of hours a week, accompany them to go shopping, visit our community cafés or various other social activities and clubs," a spokesman said.

Liz Elis from

Bridgend recently became a Community Companions volunteer befriendee to Joyce Rayer who also lives in Bridgend.

Liz says: "This is something I have always wanted to do, even though I work full time. With the Community Companions project, I am able to become a Befriender in my free time. I have found a new friend in Joyce and think the scheme is wonderful."

Joyce said: "Without Liz, I would not be able to get out of the house. We go all over the place, shopping, and going for coffee. Without Liz, I would be stuck in all the time."

*You do not need qualifications to become a volunteer & full training will be provided. For further details, call BAVO, T: 01656 810400 or E: bavo@bavo.org.uk Jane Savile - BAVO*

## 'SHOUT before it's too late'

PORTHCAWL SHOUT Forum are holding an open meeting on Friday November 2 at 2pm at Trinity Church to discuss the many implications of the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg (AMB) University Health Board's strategy.

This follows the attendance of their executive team at the NHS Consultation launch exhibition at the Pavilion on October 17. It provides a further opportunity for its members and the people of Porthcawl to further discuss the major changes and issues that will soon alter our NHS.

"I believe that I have written it with a degree of sensitivity and empathy that will appeal to a wide spectrum of readers, male and female alike.

"While mainly autobiographical in nature, it is interspersed with narrative chapters, which add significance and perspective for the reader, although some chapters – whether written in the first or third person – deliberately lack obvious chronological continuity."

CG Lewis' *Evensong: Days Before Yesterday*.

**A BRACKLA man has written his debut novel – *Evensong: Days Before Yesterday*, available on Amazon Books.**

Colin Gittings (64), retired, writing under the pen name CG Lewis, took three-and-a-half years to complete the novel. He moved to Bridgend in 1988, and during his working life he was an area manager with Welsh Brewers Ltd (Bass) and SA Brau & Co.

He wrote the book because: "I felt I had a tale to tell, and I wanted to share it. If it brings even one person the same pleasure that I got from writing it, then it will have been well worth the effort."

The novel is a work of romantic fiction in a historical setting. It comprises five separate 'books' which tell the multifaceted story of

on the excellent 'Changing for the Better' explanatory booklet being widely distributed.

There is nothing more important to most people at this time than the reorganisation of the health board. Following on from the recent visit to the Forum of Mr Win Griffiths, retiring chairman of the AMB Health Board, we have arranged an ongoing programme which will see us welcome Sarah Rochira (Older Peoples' Commissioner) to our December 7 meeting.

We are also delighted to say that following a most interesting meeting that he attended last year, First Minister Carwyn Jones has accepted our invitation to attend our January 4 meeting.

Put these dates in your diaries and come and join 'SHOUT'. Our motto remains:

*'Together we can make a difference'.*

CLIVE MORT  
Hon secretary

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# YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

## Centre saved

TWO years ago, Ynysawdre community centre was about to close because all the members of the support committee had resigned.

Mrs Main Norton took it upon herself to form a new support committee, enlisted members of the community, and formed a new group who have worked together to ensure the community centre stayed open.

They have done everything possible to ensure the centre was fit for purpose. They have carried out all the necessary tasks themselves,

including cleaning the exterior and interior of the building, and mowing the grass verges to the paths.

Theirs is a success story – the centre is now in use seven days a week for various functions, while every six weeks, the committee arrange for an entertainment show to keep the public interested.

### Children's choir

MAESTEG children's choir recently travelled to Kenfig Hill to entertain residents of Llys Ton retirement home.

The choir performed a varied and lively programme, which included music and songs from West End and Broadway shows. The residents truly appreciated the

in the centre could be renovated.

Thanks to the perseverance of one lady, who convinced others in the community to assist, and everyone's hard work, the community centre has been resurrected.

### Contact details:

**CLIVE MITCHELL**  
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ  
TEL: 01656 725399  
email: [tynycoid1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tynycoid1@yahoo.co.uk)



## NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:  
If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.  
I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ  
TEL: 01656 725399  
email: [tynycoid1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tynycoid1@yahoo.co.uk)

that they can be sent in good time for the children to receive them on Christmas day.

### Fireworks

THERE will be a Guy Fawkes day fireworks display on Llangeinor Football field on November 5 at 6.30pm.

Entry will be by ticket only, obtained from Cath on 07868 343846.

### Competition

MAESTEG 'Gleemen' male voice choir will be again organising the competition sponsored by Dunraven Windows Plc, open to singers between the ages of 19-65 at September 1, 2013, studying classical singing on a full/part time basis.

The winner will receive a prize of £2,500, a perpetual and personal trophy and appear in concert with the Maesteg Gleeman in the Town Hall, Maesteg, on Saturday, March 30, 2013.

All other finalists will receive a personal trophy and a runner-up prize of £500 each.

Successful applicants will attend a live, closed audition on Saturday,

November 3, at Maesteg Town Hall. The final will be held at Maesteg Town Hall on January 19, 2013.

### Remembrance

A SHORT service of Remembrance will be held in Aberkenfig Square on Sunday, November 11 at 10.45am, followed by a short service in St John's church, Aberkenfig.

Côr Merched Cwm Llynfi (Llynfi Valley ladies choir) will be leading the choral singing at Maesteg Cenotaph at 10.45am.

Ogmore Valley male voice choir will lead the community hymn singing in a concert at Blaengwynfi school starting at 10am.

**Operation Christmas Child**  
I WOULD advise readers that there is a collection of shoe boxes at Nolton church and Specsavers in Adare Street, Bridgend, between November 1-16.

There will not be a collection at St Bride's church, Llansantffraid this year.

## Please support our Cardiff pet hospital appeal



We urgently need to raise funds for a replacement pet hospital in Cardiff.

Text 'pet' to 70800 to donate £5

Alternatively to make a donation, please call 0800 019 9166 or visit [www.pdsa.org.uk/cardiff](http://www.pdsa.org.uk/cardiff)

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[www.scottwroe-hearingcentre.co.uk](http://www.scottwroe-hearingcentre.co.uk)

# Conservatives' plan to revive the high street

**THE Leader of the Welsh Conservatives in the Assembly, Andrew RT Davies, has launched a plan to revitalise the Welsh high street.**

The launch took place at the Mount Sorrell Hotel in Barry and was followed by visits to a number of small businesses

Among the Conservative proposals to revive high streets are a consultation on business rates to make the Welsh economy more competitive; a charter for high streets so 'best practice' is shared; town centre managers; and more planning guidance from the Welsh

Government. Assembly Members are being invited to 'adopt' a local high street in their constituency and Mr Davies chose Barry High Street.

He said: "I will be working proactively to champion the high street, liaising with local shoppers and businesses, as well as local authorities and interest groups such as the Chamber of Trade.

"We've outlined a number of sensible proposals to help with this and I was heartened to hear the First Minister confirm that the Welsh Government will be considering these in detail.

"There needs to be a constructive partnership between local autho-

ties and the Welsh Government to bring high streets back to the heart of local communities.

"This could include experimenting with free parking initiatives to make local shopping more convenient and competitive, particularly in the face of the rise and rise of out of town shopping centres."

Mr Davies added: "We also want to see reform of the Welsh Government's business rates system, which is currently a major obstacle to growth – and which makes it difficult for small businesses to develop, expand and create new jobs."

## Porthcawl's 'Davie' through to final of talent competition



Porthcawl's Davie has progressed to the next round of a national talent competition.

**PORTHCAWL** singer-songwriter Davie wowed the crowd and judging panel at the Open Mic UK Regional Showcase in Cardiff, and is now one step away from performing at The O2 Arena in London!

Thousands of acts entered Open Mic UK 2012 and the best unsigned singers from across the country

were chosen to perform at the live Regional Final shows.

Davie performed in front of a live audience and professional judging panel at The Coal Exchange, Cardiff, on the October 20. She is now set to perform at the Area Final in Reading, for the chance to progress to the National Grand Final at The O2 in London on January 19, 2013.

The judges were pleased with her performance, commenting: "Lovely interpretation of the Maroon 5 song, really drove the hook line home. Very strong original (track), just need to drive home the hook of that song."

A previous winner, Birdy, has recently been favourite on Radio 1 after signing with Warner Music with two hits singles already.

There's more than £50,000 in prizes up for grabs this year, and the overall winner gets significant investment. They'll also have the opportunity to tour the UK.

You can follow Davie on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube via the usual link: /DavieOfficial. For more information and tickets, go to: www.openmicuk.co.uk

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2067 2062.

## Prime Cymru's new service covers county borough

**PRIME CYMRU, the charity established to assist people over 50 into work or business, has launched a new service that covers Bridgend county borough.**

With Welsh Government support, PRIME Cymru will be offering a personalised service to anyone looking to find work, or who wants to improve their chances of employment through education or training opportunities, as well as those looking to use volunteering as a stepping stone to work.

There are currently more than 10,000 people between the age of 50 and state pension age in Bridgend who are jobless.

A spokesperson said: "PRIME Cymru will provide an individual service to anyone over 50 who is looking to become economically active.

"Every client will receive one-to-one support in creating their own personal development plan. Where appropriate, each person will work with their own mentor who will guide and support them to fulfil their ambitions.

"PRIME Cymru will be working with other providers to ensure that clients can obtain the relevant education, training and volunteering opportunities."

David Pugh, chief executive of PRIME Cymru, said: "We welcome the support of the Welsh Government which will allow us to extend and improve our services to older people in Bridgend."

"We acknowledge their recognition that older workers have an enormous amount of skills and experience to bring to the workplace, but quite often do not have the formal qualifications required by employers.

"Our programme has been specifically designed for, and by older jobseekers and entrepreneurs.

"More than 10 years' experience has resulted in tailored support packages being developed and agreed with each individual client.

"We are looking forward to working with and supporting many more mature jobseekers and entrepreneurs in Bridgend."

# Bridgend man urges Parkinson's sufferers to 'be prepared' for assessment questions

by LEIGH GRUFFYDD SANDERS

**A FORMER teacher is urging all Parkinson's sufferers in Bridgend county borough not to "fall foul" of potential Government cuts to disability benefits.**

After taking his fight to Westminster, he is also calling for sufferers to seek help from organised groups such as Parkinson's UK to ensure they are not caught out.

Alun Morgan (63), a former maths and IT teacher at Porthcawl Comprehensive School and the trustee for Wales at Parkinson's UK, who was diagnosed with the disease aged 49, has condemned the potential cuts as unfair on sufferers of a degenerative disease, as they can fluctuate from hour to hour, making it hard to find work.

He is calling for sufferers to fill in their new claim forms with somebody who may understand them better to ensure they don't miss out on their entitlement.

From April 8, 2013, the Government is replacing the Disability Living Allowance (DLA) with Personal Independence Payments (PIP) in a bid to cut costs and reform the system.

Incapacity Benefits (IB) were replaced by the Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) in 2008 to encourage people to find work.

However, Mr Morgan claims the set questions don't relate to Parkinson's sufferers.

He explained to The GEM: "This will affect Parkinson's sufferers. They will have to be assessed every year but this is a degenerative disease, so circumstances change so quickly."

"They don't ask questions on how I am, the standard questions don't apply to me. You can't really function at certain times of the day. Then there's questions like 'can you walk 50 metres on the flat?' Well, the Valleys aren't flat, so it's much more difficult."

Mr Morgan and Parkinson's UK went to the Labour Party Conference in Manchester to lobby MPs and put their point across. He then took a petition on behalf of Parkinson's UK to Westminster, signed by 12,000 sufferers and their carers.

Mr Morgan stated that Parkinson's UK was now waiting to see what assessment criteria will be used, and that they will advise people when this happens. In the mean time, he called for any

WESTMINSTER APPEAL



LEFT to RIGHT: Supporters Martin King and Baroness Gale with Steve Ford, chief executive of Parkinson's UK, and trustee for Wales, Alun Morgan from Bridgend.

sufferers to contact their local branches.

He said: "If you are unsure, ask somebody who understands them to help you fill in your forms. You may answer questions incorrectly. We can help them."

"I helped a friend in Llanmaes fill his in, and he got the same on ESA as he did on IB. He wouldn't have if he had done them himself."

A spokesperson for the Department of Work and Pensions said that the first consultation stage sought views on the Government's proposals to replace DLA with a new benefit – PIP.

This will continue to be a non-means tested, extra costs benefit paid to people who are in and out

of work. It will help disabled people remove the barriers they face to leading full and independent lives.

The spokesperson said: "We are looking at the feedback received from the second consultation phase on the PIP assessment.

"We should have a sound assessment in place by the end of December."

A spokesperson for the Department of Work and Pensions said that the first consultation stage sought views on the Government's proposals to replace DLA with a new benefit – PIP.

This will continue to be a non-means tested, extra costs benefit paid to people who are in and out

of work. They say one in 500 suffer with Parkinson's, so if there are 50,000 people in Bridgend that's 1,000 sufferers. Yet our membership is roughly 60 in Bridgend, around 20 in Maesteg and about 15 in Porthcawl. That's roughly 100 from 1,000.

"Some people don't go out, so we don't reach them. Some don't see a need in joining, but it changed my life. We are all positive people."

## JAIL SENTENCE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Thomas also admitted charges of supplying cannabis, possessing the drug, and extracting electricity.

Judge Neil Biddes said Thomas was "top of the chain" and had "directed production on a commercial scale".

His partner, he added, was in no way naive and shared in substantial profits.

The judge said: "I don't consider I have avoided passing an immediate custodial sentence".

Thomas, he said, had made a "considered decision" to set up a cannabis factory.

"You researched it, bought the equipment, developed cannabis plants showing skill and care, and had the assistance of your partner, who was in it from the beginning."

"When the police searched the premises, two crops had already been sold."

He continued: "Both of you would have been able to live comfortably from the income".

It was, he said: "Professional crime for profit."

Mr James said that a

farmer, Haydn David, cannabis, he said, sustained his lifestyle.

Desombre said she was aware of what was going on.

"Neither could have been more frank with the police," said Mr James. They were said to have no previous convictions.

Nicholas Gareth Jones, for Thomas, said: "His problems began when the family business went through, and his father died."

"It deeply affected his personality. He took cannabis, got into debt, and started growing it and selling it to friends. Most of the profits paid off debts."

"He is utterly ashamed of his position and prison for him will be extremely difficult."

Jeremy Jenkins, for Desombre, said: "She has been under great pressure which has preyed upon her for a significant period. The operation was not on an international level."

"Prison would be catastrophic. She is fragile mentally and she has learnt a salutary lesson."

Halfway through sentencing, the judge retired to the dock. Desombre became ill in

# VALE BUILDING PROJECTS ARE IN THE FRAME FOR 'BEST OF BRITISH' AWARD



Pictured at the Wales Millennium Centre for the All Wales Building Excellence awards were, (left to right): Charles Hunter (Vale Council principal officer); Audrey Smith (PS Holdings); Marcus Goldsworthy; Coun Fred Johnson; Andrew Hodgeson (Town and Counties); Chris Jones (LABC chairman); and Maria Webber (Vale Council technical and development officer).

**TWO building projects completed recently in the Vale are in the frame for a 'best in Britain' award'.**

The ninth Vale Council Building Control Group 'Building Excellence Awards' were held earlier this year at The Mount Sorrel Hotel, and two of the Vale winners have now triumphed at the All Wales Building Excellence awards, at a gala ceremony at the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff.

The two winning Vale companies were Town and

Counties, for extension and alteration work at 133, Plymouth Road, Penarth, and PS Holdings, in the commercial projects section, for their work building Pier 64, the new restaurant at Penarth Marina.

Marcus Goldsworthy, the operational manager for development and building control at The Vale Council, said: "It is a marvellous achievement that projects from the Vale have won two categories at the all-Wales event – and I believe that these projects can also win at the national awards in London on November 13 – where they will be up against projects from councils throughout England and the rest of the UK".

Coun Fred Johnson, chairman of the council's planning committee, added: "The winning projects have shown the quality of building work that is being undertaken throughout the Vale and we are proud to be part of such an important national awards event."

"We continue to support the annual awards and would like to thank our sponsors, who enabled the event to take place."

"They were: Nina Estate Agents; ACD Skip Hire; JPL Sound; The GEM; and The Mount Sorrel Hotel."



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# Former rugby star hits £40,000 fundraising target for the Ty Hafan hospice



In costume for a charity video are Brynmor Williams (left) and Robert Jones.

## Police hunt for Penarth burglars

POLICE are appealing for information following two burglaries at the Co-operative store on Windsor Road, Penarth.

At about 2am on Wednesday, October 24, two men forced entry into the premises via the front door.

A large quantity of cigarettes was stolen from the front kiosk before they made off.

At around 1am on Sunday October 28, the suspects returned, forced entry via the front doors of the shop and stole tobacco from the kiosk, before making off once again.

Anyone with informa-

tion is asked to contact Barry CID on 101, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

• Police say a 36-year-old Cardiff man has been arrested in connection with the two burglaries.

### Festive fayre

Marie Curie hospice, Penarth holds a Christmas fayre on Saturday, November 10, from 10.30am.

There will be an opportunity to buy Christmas cards, as well as Marie Curie merchandise, guess the weight of the cake, and a raffle.

**FORMER** Wales and British Lions rugby star turned broadcaster, Brynmor Williams, has achieved his goal of raising £40,000 for Ty Hafan hospice this year.

In February, Brynmor, a director of Thomas Carroll Group plc, set out on a mission to raise £40,000 – to commemorate the insurance group's 40th anniversary.

As part of the fundraising effort, Brynmor, who lives in Cowbridge, stars in a new charity video as a 1970s-style action hero, in the character of 'Harry Lion', in the short film 'The Insurers – Mission for Ty Hafan'.

He also co-hosted a 40th birthday event at the Wales Millennium Centre, which pushed the total raised to £49,000.

In the film, Brynmor and his fellow 'Insurers' attempt to deliver a briefcase containing money to the Millennium Stadium, despite the attentions of a mysterious enemy spy.

He said: "It was great to see fellow directors abandoning their dignity, dressing up and acting for such an important cause. The video has cer-

tainly helped attract people to our charity page and spread awareness of our fundraising activities. I am pleased to have played my part in raising £49,000 for Ty Hafan."

Other fundraising events included a four-day 250-mile north to south Wales bike ride, the Three Peaks climb, and golfing events.

In a further example of his acting skills, Brynmor also appears in a second charity video with fellow rugby legend, Robert Jones MBE.

The two former scrum halves compare their

sporting records in a verbal sparing match titled 'Alas Bryn and Jones'.

Thomas Carroll was founded on October 1, 1972, in Cardiff by Evan Thomas and Terry Carroll and their respective wives, Anne and Delma.

The company now employs 110 people, with headquarters in Caerphilly and offices in Swansea and Brecon.

The film 'The Insurers – Mission for Ty Hafan' and 'Alas Bryn and Jones' can be viewed at [www.thomascarroll.co.uk](http://www.thomascarroll.co.uk).

**Roadworks report**

Temporary traffic control – Plassey Street, between Albert Road and Arcot Street, Penarth; Sully Moors Road/Hayes Road, Sully; Church Road, Barry.

Intermittent temporary traffic control – Port Road, Barry at the junction with Pencoed Lane, 9.30am-3.30pm.

Temporary road closures from 5.30pm-9.30pm on November 5 for fireworks displays – Paget Road, between Harbour Road and its cul-de-sac near life-

guard station including the unnamed section of road adjacent to side of 10 Paget Road; Station Approach Road; Breaksea Drive from Adar y Mor to Station Approach Road; Friars Road from Station Approach Road to Paget Road, Barry.

Permit holders only at Westward Rise, Porth y Castell, Bron Avelon, Tan y Fron, Min y Mor, Pen y Bryn, Marine Drive, Trem y Don, Swn y Mor, Cliffwood View, Bull Cliff Walk.

## Severn Barrage row rumbles on as an AM calls for local focus

THE row over proposals to build a barrage between Lavernock Point and Somerset has continued, with local AM Andrew RT Davies calling for the Welsh Government to conduct a comprehensive consultation with local residents.

Mr Davies said it was time to end the uncertainty faced by residents in recent years. He was speaking following a debate in the Senedd on renewable energy from the Severn Estuary.

He said: "We have heard a lot of discussion about the potential impact on the local environment, and of course the potential economic footprint that a project of this size could have in Wales.

"It is clear that we have an energy source of great potential on our doorstep with the Severn Barrage project. Time and time again proposals have come forward and each time nothing concrete has emerged.

"If the Welsh Government are serious about the project, there needs to be a proper consultation and discussion with locals, as well as clarity over the likely deadline for a final decision. We can't keep people waiting in limbo forever.

"They need to decide whether this project is financially viable and consider how much, if any, public money will be earmarked for it.

"What we don't want is a wave of publicity and a huge fanfare, only for residents to find out further down the line that the project is to be put in mothballs once again."

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# £500 donation powers up ValePlus charity



ABOVE: Cheque presentation, from left: Gemma, Rebecca, ValePlus director Steve Thomas, Aberthaw Power Station manager Phil Allen, ValePlus trustee Rob Hartery, and Chris.

## PACT meetings

CADOC PACT, Palmerston Community & Learning Centre, November 14 at 6pm.  
GIBBONS OWN PACT, The Residents Board Office, Coyauchurh Rise on November 14 at 10.30am.

LLANDOUGH PACT, Llandough Conservative Club on November 12 at 7pm.

SULLY PACT, Jubilee Hall, Smithies Avenue, Sully on November 15 at 7pm.

ABERTHAW Power Station manager Phil Allen, recently presented a donation of £500 to Valeplus charity that provides educational, social and recreational day services for adults with learning disabilities in the Vale and Cardiff.

The donation will help to set up a new café at 5 High Street, Barry – Café No 5 – which will be opened to the public this month.

"As a local employer, we are really pleased to be able to support such a great venture and I'm sure many of our staff who live in the area will want to

call in for a drink and a cake once the café is open", said Phil.

ValePlus has sessions open to those aged over 16 designed to help them achieve independence and employment. Up to 20 clients take part in the sessions in Barry each weekday and six attend a group in Llantwit Major on a Thursday and Friday.

"This is a fantastic donation and we are very grateful, as the refurbishment work in the café is mostly funded by ValePlus", added Valeplus director Steve Thomas.

"The trainees will have an opportunity to put their skills into action as they work in the business."

# SECRET BUNKER WHERE WATCHERS WAITED FOR WARTIME INVASION

NINE Penarth and district Ramblers met Pam and Krys for a local walk in the Cefn Onn area, and walking north up a railway cutting, passed the golf course and a ventilation shaft for the railway tunnel that lay ahead, which can only be accessed on foot.

In 1871, the Rhymney Railway provided a link to Cardiff Dock and in 1858 the Rhymney Caerphilly line ran through the 1,935 yard tunnel taking the railway underneath Caerphilly Mountain.

The small railway station Cefn Onn Halt was opened by the Great Western Railway to serve the surrounding wooded area, but was finally closed in September 1986, as the area had changed and grown with the M4 motorway and the vast amount of housing development nearby.

Going uphill along a bridleway

and passing a small stream, they joined a path through deciduous woodland and part of the 28-mile Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk to enjoy brilliant views over to Caerphilly Castle shrouded in mist that had still not burned off.

On continuing along the ridge and crossing road gates led into a field and then more woodland, from where a bridle path led downhill past ruined buildings into a small wooded valley.

Two footbridges over the stream were crossed in close succession at Coed Coesau eventually leading to a restored concrete bunker, built during World War Two to conceal a secret group known as the Auxiliary Unit, set up to relay vital information about the German invaders for counter attacks by the British.

A gradual climb uphill onto the ridge above the steep-sided Craig Llysfaen meant brilliant views across the Bristol Channel, taking in Flat and Steep Holm and crossing the ridge clear views of the

Llanishen reservoirs and on to the Millennium Stadium and Cardiff Bay in the distance.

Passing the 264m trig point, the group joined Graig Road, following it downhill for a short while before a track leading past some houses saw them re-joining their initial path for the short trip back to Cefn Onn.

*On November 4, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a nine-mile moderate/hard walk at Highmeadow Woods and the Wye Valley; contact Joy on 01446 737131.*

*Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice. To follow the group please log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com. Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 02920 255102.*

**JOY STRANGWARD**

## £75 fixed fines in the Vale

THE local authority support company XFOR issued 54 fixed penalty notices in the Vale during the week commencing October 22.

XFOR has been tasked by the Vale Council to help tackle dog fouling and littering incidents in the Vale.

A council spokeswoman said: "They are taking a zero tolerance approach to environmental crimes, where offenders will be issued with a fixed penalty notice of £75, without warning."

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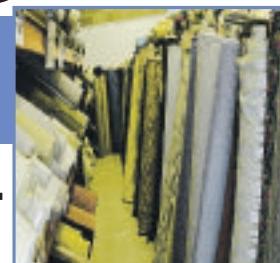


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Watts & Morgan are pleased to introduce some exciting new changes to their successful Cowbridge Sales Department.

Rhys Gould, Head of Residential sales, leads our successful team. Rhys has been with the company for 5½ years and lives locally in Llanwit Major. Richard Morgan, Partner, heads our successful Lettings Department, which continues to grow from strength to strength. Matthew Jones, Senior Associate, from Cowbridge, has over 13 years experience within the industry and Colwyn Treherne Jones, Consultant, has over 50 years experience as a Chartered Surveyor. We are also pleased to introduce two exciting additions to the team. Sam Dovey, from Peterston-Super-Ely, and Hannah Whitehouse, from Llandow, near Cowbridge, bring a wealth of experience, an enthusiastic sales approach and key local contacts to the team.

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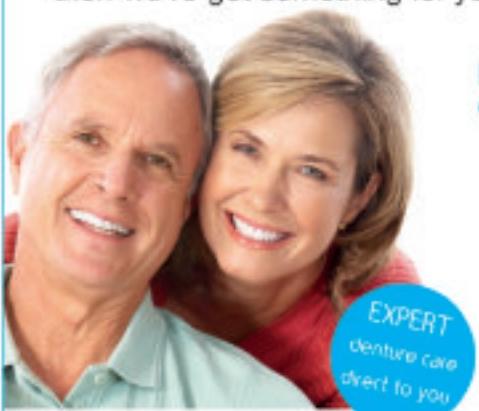
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### NEWS FROM BARRY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

# Primary school pupils get a glimpse of things to come

AT the start of October, Barry Comprehensive School welcomed almost 300 year-6 boys to an action-packed day to introduce them to the school.

The visitors enjoyed a crash course in making music with a junk band, African drums, rock school and an introduction to music technology.

The hospitality and catering department got everyone making pizza and gave lots of tips about kitchen hygiene and safety.

The science department took over the school hall to investigate different sources of energy that featured demonstrations, hands-on practicals and even a hovercraft!

The year-6 visitors, and their sixth form chaperones, had plenty of opportunities to burn off their own excess energy with dodgeball in the gym, golf in the sports hall, street dancing and drama improvisation.



LEFT:  
The Rock  
School  
professionals  
encouraged  
year-6 to have  
a go at making  
their own music  
during an  
entertaining  
crash course.

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'GOVERNMENT TARGETS NOT BEING MET' – SAY REGIONAL AM AND MP

# Conservative duo call for improved cancer treatment times in the Vale

TWO Conservative politicians are angry that targets concerning the time taken to start cancer treatments weren't being met in the Vale.

Both regional AM Andrew RT Davies and Vale MP Alun Cairns were "disappointed" that one in seven cancer patients starting urgent treatment in August were not seen within the Government's target time.

The Welsh Government's target is to treat 95 per cent within 62 days of being

diagnosed. Alun Cairns claims that target has not been met since First Minister Carwyn Jones took up his position.

According to them, during August 2012, 11 people in Cardiff and the Vale out of a total of 75, more than one in seven, were not treated within 62 days – 10 per cent below the target. Figures for June (three per cent) and July (14 per cent) also showed targets not being met.

Alun Cairns said: "I am so angry that people in the Vale and across Wales fail to receive the treatment they need

to battle cancer, within the time-frame that the Welsh Government has set. As we all know, getting treatment for cancer as soon as possible is critical. Long delays are frightening and only add to the strain, pressure and fear felt by patients and their families."

"Delays in treatment and the inaccessibility of cancer drugs for patients in the Vale is something that all too regularly crops up in my constituency surgeries."

Mr Davies, leader of the Welsh

Conservatives, added: "The fact is that these vital targets have not been met in Wales since the First Minister took up his post, and until they are we will be nowhere near the first-class treatment we deserve. Local residents need to have confidence in the health system upon which they rely."

"Right now, record Welsh Government cuts to NHS funding in Wales are putting huge pressure on beleaguered staff who are trying their utmost to deliver quality treatment and care. They, too, deserve better."

Dr Graham Shortland, Medical Director at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, said: "We are committed to meeting cancer waiting times and are working hard on plans to address our current waits. Capacity issues in two areas, coupled with a rise in demand, have had an adverse impact on our waiting times."

"We are working on plans to tackle these issues, with some additional capacity due to come on stream in the next few weeks."

"We would like to apologise to any patient who is currently waiting to be seen for any undue distress caused."

"While we recognise that this failure to meet target is not acceptable, it's important to note that the 62-day target relates to patients who may have cancer but who, as yet, have no formal diagnosis."

"The UHB complies fully with the 31-day cancer treatment target, which applies to

patients who have been diagnosed with cancer."

• A Welsh Government spokesperson told The GEM: "The number of patients involved in these statistics are relatively small and the interventions often complex, meaning small changes can affect the overall picture greatly."

"The large majority of patients are still seen within the target time."

"We continue to work closely with all health boards to

improve performance, concentrating on those patients waiting over 62 days."

"The Minister for Health and Social Services, Lesley Griffiths AM, has expressed to health board chairs her

strong wish to see improvements, and has raised the issue with them again this week."

"The Minister expects to see improvements early in 2013."

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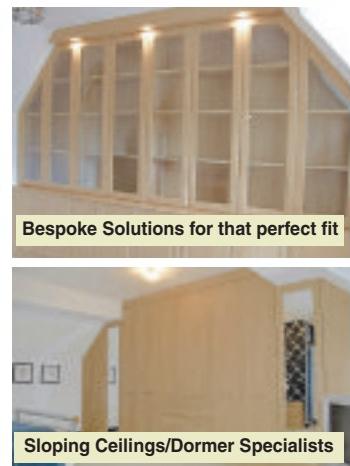
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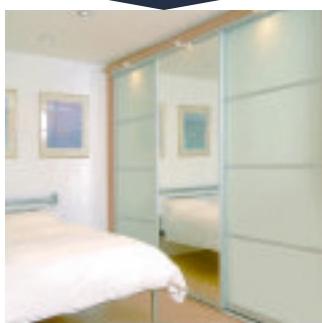
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## FOUR NEW SIGNINGS FOR OIL 4 WALES...

**I**NDEPENDENT oil distribution company Oil 4 Wales has added to its squad by signing up four of Wales' rugby stars as official ambassadors.

The oil brand for Wales has secured the support of Wales' current kicking coach Neil Jenkins, Wales international and Llanelli Scarlets hooker Ken Owens, and Wales international and Newport-Gwent Dragons flanker Dan Lydiate, as well as former international Dafydd Jones.

The new signings come as Oil 4 Wales' original ambassador, Shane Williams, takes time out from duties as he embarks on a season in Japan.

Colin Owens, managing director of Oil 4 Wales, said: "Shane has been a fantastic ambassador for our company over the past year and it is great to see him already doing so well over in Japan.

"We are a very proud Welsh com-

pany, so it is great for us to have members of the Welsh rugby team on board, as they share the same passion for Wales as we do."

Dan Lydiate said: "Oil 4 Wales is passionate about Wales and is truly committed to serving the communities of Wales. It is a great company to be involved in – friendly, family run and with the Welsh community at its heart.

"They have already built an impressive client base and I look forward to working with them going forward as they continue with their exciting expansion plans."

*Oil 4 Wales is a family-run company, which was founded by entrepreneur Colin Owens, in 2011. The company, which supplies a range of fuel services to homes, businesses, commercial premises, agricultural and retail customers, has been well supported by those keen to see the success of a truly independent Welsh oil brand, and now supplies over 16,000 customers in Wales.*



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# In Business Update

GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



## Festive way to support school

**Cowbridge Comprehensive School's Annual PTA CHRISTMAS MARKET**

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Refreshments include: mulled wine, home made mince pies, hot food & drinks.

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Aberthin Road, Cowbridge CF71 7EN.

(If you would like a stall to sell your goods please email: [mandyterry@aol.com](mailto:mandyterry@aol.com) or call 07979 148939

**C**OME to our popular Cowbridge Comprehensive Christmas market and enjoy a few hours of festive shopping, while also supporting the school.

Now with over 70 stalls full of fabulous, unique and interesting gift ideas.

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**TERMS AND CONDITIONS:** Voucher not valid in conjunction with any other offer or promotion. Places must be booked and paid for in advance. Applicants must complete a health questionnaire.

**FORCES FITNESS** are also offering a week of **FREE BOOTCAMP SESSIONS** in Cowbridge, Bridgend, Neath and Port Talbot. Get in touch for more info!

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GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

# In Business Update



## Minister checks on benefits of new broadband service

**Donal Whelan shows Stephen Crabb and Simon Mawer how ultrafast internet is improving his home-based business in St Hilary.**

**S**T HILARY found itself at the heart of the Welsh broadband debate last week when Wales Office Minister Stephen Crabb visited on a fact finding mission to see how Welsh businesses can take advantage of access to high-speed broadband.

Mr Crabb accompanied Simon Mawer, the managing director of Welsh broadband provider Konek-T, to the St Hilary home of Donal Whelan, one of the first people to take



up their superfast broadband.

Mr Whelan runs his own music mastering business, Hafod Mastering, from his home in the village and relies on the internet for his work.

Mr Crabb said: "Improving Wales'

communications infrastructure is vital to grow our economy and compete on a global scale.

"Having access to ultrafast broadband will let businesses expand and develop new markets, creating the jobs we need.

"It will also allow rural Welsh communities to access public services more quickly and efficiently online."

Mr Crabb also visited the Arqiva St Hilary Transmission Tower, where Konek-T's technology is based.



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**MAKE YOUR WILL, FOR PEACE OF MIND**

**A** Will is often one of those things we all mean to 'sort out'

but very often is left undone.

Nonetheless, it is a vital document to have in place – to give

peace of mind; to ensure that the people we want to benefit at the time of death actually benefit; to

bequeath a legacy to a friend or a charity.

Actually, making a Will is a very straightforward process.

Alternatively, you may have already made your Will, but are wondering if it is still appropriate for your requirements.

Perhaps you need to appoint guardians for your children, or you now have grandchildren, or you have recently benefited from a legacy yourself, which may increase the value of your estate.

You may simply feel that your current Will no longer fulfils your wishes.

For advice or assistance on any of these matters, please do not hesitate to contact Glamorgan Law LLP at The Pavilion, 60 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EE

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This firm will be participating in the Will Aid scheme for the month of November.

# Local charity steps in to tackle prostate disease with new laser equipment

**A** WELSH charity that began life in Cowbridge, has stepped forward once again to pay for a high-tech machine that can make a huge difference to men

with prostate disease.

It was eight years ago that the GLAZE Charity Trust raised the money to buy a Green Light Laser machine for the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend, and the charity has been supporting its upkeep and running costs ever

since. More than 1,100 men have been treated with the laser technology and the hospital's urological department is now the leading training unit of its kind in UK.

GLAZE, which is an integral part of Prostate Cymru Charity Trust, said support from companies and donations

from individuals had been crucial in providing the additional £106,000 required to ensure the continuance of the Green Light Laser Treatment.

The new Green light laser XPS system delivers laser energy to the prostate and removes prostate tissue that is causing obstruction.

Patients stay in hospital for about a day after treatment, as opposed to up to four days with a more standard procedure.

Prostate Cymru and Glaze founder and trustee, Ray Murray, said: "Prostate disease, both malignant and benign, is the most common form of disease diagnosed in Welsh men."

"Our charities want to ensure that we have the most modern and successful equipment available, as well as highly-trained surgeons. "We are tremendously grateful for the support we have received from companies in Wales, and from people who have raised money on our behalf through sponsorships and other activities.

"Companies such as

Rockwool, Tata Steel and GE Aviation, have been really supportive. We have held prostate disease awareness days on many firms' premises – and so our relationship is proving mutually beneficial."

Andy Thomas,, who is a senior urology consultant at the Princess of Wales Hospital, said: "I am truly thankful to GLAZE, Prostate Cymru and its supporters for facilitating the purchase of the new third Generation Green light laser system for the Princess of Wales Hospital.

"We have been using this laser in the recent European trial of Green light versus another established system.

"The increased power and speed of the new laser has proven to be a great advance over the one we used previously.

"The hospital offers the only NHS Green light laser in service in Wales. With the increasing cost pressures being borne by the NHS, it was likely that this service would have been lost, as funds may not have been found to purchase the new laser.



ABOVE (left to right): Ray Murray, Tim Vincent (senior technical consultant at Rockwool), and Andy Thomas.

North America, but not in Wales. There are nearly 40 robotic surgical machines in England, where this surgery is free on the NHS, but not a single one in Wales.

Mr Murray added,

"Prostate Cymru is now seeking to raise funds for a Robotic Laparoscopic Surgical System.

"This kind of precise

and minimally invasive

surgery is widely available in Europe and

the first machine in Wales by our 'Operation Robot' campaign.

"It's an ambitious target but we are planning some very big fund-raising initiatives.

"We need all the support we can get, so we'd be delighted to hear from anyone out there who can help us achieve this important objective."

For more information, go to [www.prostatecymru.com](http://www.prostatecymru.com)

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# Prepare your Home for Christmas

## New Government scheme could warm your home in time for Christmas



ABOVE: Environment Minister, John Griffiths and Citizens Advice policy director, Teresa Perchard at the launch of Big Energy Savings Week

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**O**NE thing any home-owner can do as Christmas approaches is check if money is being wasted on heating bills.

That's why it is a good idea to look at a new Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) scheme, that is making £13 million available for this very purpose.

The Environment Minister, John Griffiths said the money will be divided between two fuel poverty schemes, 'Nest' and 'Arbed', both of which target investment at those people most in need of help.

Speaking at the launch of Big Energy Savings Week at the Bridgend shopping outlet, McArthurGlen, he said: "Rising energy costs and the current economic conditions mean that too many people in Wales are becoming vulnerable to fuel poverty."

"The Welsh Government is committed taking action to tackle this issue, and that is why Nest, our fuel poverty scheme, targets investment at those people most at risk."

"Latest figures show that since April 2011, Nest has provided advice and support to more than 15,000 households to help them reduce their bills, and has funded energy-

saving improvement in around 5,600 homes.

"These improvement packages really do make a difference, resulting in an average saving of £500 per household, so I am delighted that we have been able to allocate significant additional money to such a beneficial scheme."

"The £13m will be shared between Nest and our strategic energy scheme, Arbed, which in its first phase helped to make 6,000 homes in some of Wales' poorest areas more energy efficient.

"We are now moving into Arbed's second phase and expect it to benefit a further 5,000 homes plus by 2016."

"Both Nest and Arbed make a genuine difference to the quality of life of Welsh householders, resulting in warmer homes and reduced fuel bills, and I am delighted that we are able to maintain our investment in tackling fuel poverty at this economically difficult time."

Finance Minister, Jane Hutt said: "The additional £10million to improve domestic energy will make a real difference, ensuring warmer homes and more manageable fuel bills for many of Wales' less well off householders."

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**G**REAT news for anyone considering having their furniture painted – local decorator Sara Llewellyn is back in business and looking forward to a busy autumn.

She specialises in hand-painted finishes applied to anything needing a facelift, namely old or new furniture, fitted or freestanding.

Her transformations create stunning results, whether it be a small chest of drawers or a complete kitchen revamp, no project is too small.

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## NEWS IN AND OUT OF THE CLASSROOM AT YSGOL GYFUN BRO MORGANNWG

# PUPILS VISIT IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM FOR HANDS-ON WORLD WAR ONE STUDY



**ON October 5, the year-11 GCSE history class travelled to London to visit the Imperial War Museum.**

During this term, pupils will be completing their controlled assessment on the First World War. They took part in a workshop on interpretations of the First World War led by the museum's experts.

This gave pupils the perfect opportunity to develop their research, interrogation and analysis skills through studying a number of original artifacts.

We also had the opportunity to visit galleries based on the theme 'war' at the museum.

## Technology project exhibition

**IT was a pleasure to see year-13 pupil Ioan Williams' AS design technology work being displayed as part of the WJEC Innovation Awards Exhibition. The exhibition was held in Cardiff and Llandudno earlier this month.**

## Eco news

**IN October, a whole school electrical equipment recycling event was held at the school.**

The event was under the supervision of the A-level business class. Pupils and staff filled a lorry with electrical equipment to recycle. This event takes us one step closer to becoming an Eco School this year.

Pupils publicised the day by colourful posters and pamphlets, presentations in the school assemblies and by speaking to staff and pupils. There was a positive response from many pupils, parents and staff and we are waiting to hear whether or not we have collected enough equipment to win a prize.

## Head pupils

**CONGRATULATIONS to Wil and Hannah Owen on being chosen as**

head boy and head girl for this academic year.

They will be assisted by Ioan Williams and Nia Spilsbury.

## Open evening

**A HIGHLY successful open evening was held on Wednesday, October 17, with more than 300 visitors to the school.**

We were delighted to extend a warm welcome to parents, friends and prospective pupils and parents.

Visitors enjoyed a variety of activities including an impressive gymnastics display, exciting science experiments, a short drama production and a chance to sample some of the refreshments now available in the new school coffee shop.

## A very

## special evening!

An exciting opportunity to experience some of the learning activities on offer to year-7 at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg was an integral part of a recent parents' evening.

Parents often contact the school to ask for constructive and practical advice on how to help their children with their work and in response to this, a series of interactive workshops were held to provide the necessary guidance for parents to help their children with their learning in secondary school.

It was a resounding success, with parents choosing between four workshops; 'Safe Surfing' (using the internet safely), 'Read On!' (encouraging your child to read), 'How to use the school diary?' and 'Assessments', reports and targets make sense – as well as discussing progress with form tutors.



**PICTURED RIGHT:**  
Wil Owen, Nia Spilsbury,  
Hannah Owen, and Ioan  
Williams.

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# AIR CADETS' MOVING VISIT TO WORLD WAR ONE GRAVES

SIX Air Cadets from 372 (Barry) Squadron, Adam Wood, Megan Palmer-Wood, Carl Chaplin, Charles Adams, Megan Hamblin and Geraint Franklin, recently travelled to Europe to pay homage to those who lost their lives fighting for their countries in the great wars.

The visit encompassed the war memorials and battlefields of Ypres Salient, in Belgium and those of the Somme, in France.

The cadets stayed as guests of the Belgian Army in Ypres and during their time were able to witness members of the local Fire Brigade performing the moving 'Last Post' ceremony at the Menin Gate.

As a sign of the greatest respect, Cadet Megan Hamblin laid a poppy wreath on behalf of the Squadron.

Cadet Adam Wood said: "We also went to Dunkirk to see where the evacuations took place. When you stand on the beach, it's amazing to think that in May 1940 all those people came in all sorts of boats, big and small to save the

JASON HORTON



No 2 Canadian Cemetery at Vimy Ridge.



Keiren Long in deep thought.

## WHAT'S ON / in brief

### Church lunches

LADIES of the parish of All Saints Church, Barry, affectionately known as the 'Soup Gang', have organised another series of autumn lunches on November 1, 8, 15, 22.

They take place in the church hall at the rear of the church from 12noon. Selection of soups with bread roll, pudding with custard or cream, followed by tea or coffee. Payment on the door £5. All proceeds in aid of the All Saints organ appeal.

### Church fayre

THE St Paul's Church Hall, Barry, fayre takes place this Saturday, November 3, at 2pm, packed with goods all at low prices. Stalls include Christmas gifts.

Admission for children is free (adults 50p). All proceeds are in aid of church funds.

### Autumn fayre

THIS Saturday, November 3, the Children's Society holds its autumn fayre in the Paget Roms, Penarth, from 10am-12noon.

Admission 50p, including coffee/tea and biscuits. All welcome.



Oliver Lofthouse at the Vimy Ridge Memorial.

**EXTENDED**

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## Short film warns of the dangers of illegal fireworks

SOUTH Wales and Mid and West Fire and Rescue Service have launched their firework safety campaign with a 'Pay the Price' short film, illustrating the consequences of using illegal fireworks.

It supports their zero tolerance approach of the sale of illegal fireworks.

They are working with their partners throughout Wales to promote a range of safety messages during the bonfire period this year.

Head of Fire Crime Unit at South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Garry Davies, said:

"Illegal fireworks can be highly dangerous as they have not been through the same safety checks as legal fireworks and do not conform to British Standards. They are also stored by unlicensed vendors and cost the taxpayer thousands of pounds each year.

The main objective is to stop members of the public from purchasing illegal fireworks and encourage everyone to attend official and organised bonfire and firework events for a safe and enjoyable evening.

The video is available to download from their websites, and also via the SWFRS Fire Crime Unit App. This is the first Fire and Rescue Service App in the UK and is completely free to download.

Last year, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service seized more than half a ton and in excess of £10,000 worth of illegal fireworks. It

points out that these illegal fireworks are often sold on to the public at a lower price than the shops and supermarkets.

Not only are these fireworks extremely dangerous and capable of causing serious injury, they are often imported from abroad and do not conform to British Standards. They are also stored by unlicensed vendors and cost the taxpayer thousands of pounds each year.

Head of Fire Crime Unit at South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Garry Davies, said:

"Even when using legal fireworks at private parties, this can still be dangerous if the fireworks code is not followed properly.

"We urge members of the public to stay safe this fireworks night and attend an official organised display, which are a lot safer."

# YOUNG AND OLD REVEL IN THE FUN OF COWBRIDGE FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL

## PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE  
AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased

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Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

COWBRIDGE Food and Drink Festival continues to be a shining beacon for all that is good in Welsh cuisine.

One of the features of the day was that it is not just adult 'foodies' who are attracted to the event, lots of children are keen to see the huge variety of products on offer.

Photographer Glyn Evans captured people of all generations enjoying the friendly atmosphere, and the 'homage' to food and drink!



ABOVE: Pedal power made smoothies at the festival!



# Thousands of people converge on Cowbridge for good food and drink!

by LEIGH GRUFFYDD SANDERS



**THE Cowbridge Food & Drink Festival again showcased its growing popularity over the weekend, as thousands poured into the town to indulge in culinary delights.**

Being new to The GEM, it was this writer's first sojourn to the festival, so I was excited to discover what was on offer.

The sights and smells adorning the tables and counters were a treasure trove, with the finest cuts of meat, golden pie crusts, wild and wacky cheeses, sharp and bitter ales, and sweet treats begging to be purchased.

The craft and fringe sights offered much to browse, including the fledgling Cowbridge Radio team providing live music throughout the two days.

The former attraction showcased plenty of hand-made arts and crafts for the most forward-thinking of Christmas shoppers, while those selling hats, scarves and gloves probably got quite a bit of trade from visitors who may have come unprepared for the sharp temperatures.

The weather was kinder on the Saturday, and as a result it was the busier of the two days.

The crowds wandered the attractions enjoying themselves with smiles on their faces and a happy atmosphere.

Sunday was greeted by dark clouds and misty skies, but the weather held off for a while, meaning early visitors managed to avoid the downpours.

The stall holders were again in fine spirits despite a long day on Saturday, and were quick to point out to visitors the delights to keep an eye out for.

One companion relied on a cup of mulled wine to keep her blood flowing, and was unprepared for the alcoholic strength of the brew!

Organisers were jubilant with how things went. Festival chairman

John Davies said: "We were delighted with yet another fantastic event with a great atmosphere in the town throughout the weekend."

"The attendances have been increasing year on year – we had 14,000 people in 2011, and although not quite matching those record numbers this year everyone seemed to have a great weekend."

"The weather always plays a part in visitor numbers and Saturday's bright and sunny conditions saw a record amount of visitors through the gate."

"Sunday was a much wetter affair, but that left more room for seasoned festival-goers to browse the stalls."

"We had great feedback from visitors and exhibitors. It's been a difficult 12 months for many small producers who have been hit by problems with the weather and the economy, but a bumper festival weekend goes some way to helping them get back on track."

"I'd also like to extend thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this year's event such a success."

Vale AM Jane Hutt also popped in to see the fruits of the county's producers, and she commented: "It was great to hear the First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones praise the town of Cowbridge last week in the Senedd, for its thriving High Street, strengthened by events like the Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival."

A spokeswoman for the British Heart Foundation thanked The GEM for its help in fundraising over the weekend.

She said: "Thank you so much on behalf of British Heart Foundation for giving us the opportunity to be at The Cowbridge Food & Drink Festival at the weekend – we had a great time!"

"We all worked very hard and are so very grateful. We took £750 on Saturday and have yet to count Sunday's money."



Photographs by  
**MIKE WILCOCK**



# Crowds flock to Cowbridge as the food and drink festival becomes a 'must' destination

**PHOTOGRAPHS**  
by **GLYN EVANS**

OTHER PICTURES ARE  
AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

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Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

AS usual, there was something for everyone at the Cowbridge Festival of Food and Drink.

For cooks who were keen to improve their technique, there were demonstrations from professional chefs.

Elsewhere, there were wine tastings, entertainment for young and old, and enough mouth-watering food to set any diet back six weeks!



ABOVE, ABOVE RIGHT, and BELOW:  
Traders were tempting festival-goers with  
a wide variety of dishes.



# Cowbridge's gourmet festival gives visitors a taste of the best that Wales has to offer!

COWBRIDGE is getting its breath back after another hectic weekend as, once again, it became the centre of the culinary world in Wales.

One look at the crowd (right) enjoying the entertainment in the champagne marquee shows what an enjoyable event it was – whether your taste was for gourmet food, real ale, or fine wine.

With more areas of the town involved than ever before, it just keeps getting better and better!

Photographs by  
**MIKE WILCOCK**



ABOVE: Jan Chapman of The GEM with specially made shopping bags.



*BELOW: Lucy Owen with members of the British Heart Foundation, which was the festival's official charity.*



*BELOW: The Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Nicola Thomas, and her consort, Coun Andrea Burges (left) held a drinks reception in the Mayor's Parlour.*



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# Porthcawl reflects on a successful festival day as the 'Splash-Up' attracts the crowds

Photographs by  
**KEITH E MORGAN**

PORTHCAWL residents have been full of praise for the recent 'Splash-Up' festival which meant that the last sunny Saturday before the clocks went back saw the town packed with revellers.

Comments on message boards and social networking sites have been favourable, and locals have commented on the party atmosphere that gave the town a real boost.

The GEM featured photographs of the event last week, but we are delighted to include these images, taken by Keith E Morgan.

**RIGHT:** Porthcawl and District Art Society displayed members' paintings in the John Street sunshine.

**BELOW:**  
Open-top bus tours proved popular.



**ABOVE:** There was a chance to learn some circus skills, as demonstrated by this tyro tightrope walker!



**ABOVE:** Bands played on the promenade, and also at the bandstand in John Street.



**ABOVE:** There was a welcome on the 'Christian Surfers' stall.



## Cornelly councillor handed the MBE at Windsor Castle



CORNELLY councillor Jefferson Tildesley attended an Investiture recently at Windsor Castle, performed by Prince Charles.

Coun Tildesley was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours in June 2012 for 'Services to local Government and to the community of Bridgend'.

The Queen had returned from her summer holiday at Balmoral the previous day, but

unfortunately had to pull out of the Investiture with a bad back.

Prince Charles was flown down from Scotland at the last minute to undertake the Investiture on behalf of Her Majesty.

The photograph shows Jeff with the Prince during a discussion about Bridgend and the Prince's visits there, the last one of which was during Jeff's term of office as Mayor of BCBC.

KEM

## BRIDGE RESULTS

**COWBRIDGE and District Bridge Club (Llanbeddian) results for October 23:**

1. Barbara and Colin Easterbrook 60 per cent; =2 Pam Higgs and Sylvia Phillips 59 per cent; =2 Dot Isaacs and Diane Lewis 59 per cent; 3. Mary Thomas and Dennis Barker 58 per cent; 4. Ann Miller and Judy Springett 57 per cent. AH

## Title joy for Wayfarers

THE Southerndown Golf Club ESP Wayfarers (Handicaps between 10 and 18) have won their league this year playing 12 games and winning eight.

The team were unbeaten on the hallowed home soil of the Ogmore Downs.

However, the key to their success was that they could always field a strong team away from home, where they always picked up valuable away points.

### UNBEATABLE

In one of the toughest leagues in south Wales, which included local rivals Pyle and Kenfig, St Mary's and Brynhill, the triumphant Southerndown team proved to be insurmountable to all opponents and won the league with a margin

of three points.

The team has now been promoted to the Premier League next season which includes all of this year's champions from the other leagues.

There were many notable individual performances this year with Paul Rees (ex-Bridgend Athletic RFC stalwart) proving himself to be the best Wayfarer in Wales by winning the annual Wayfarers Charity Day in August at Pontypriidd.

The organisational driving force of the cherished secretary and treasurer Brian O'Hare proved to a paramount in keeping the all-conquering squad together and turning up at the correct venues.

JC

# New war memorial for Cefn Cribwr

CONSTRUCTION of the new war memorial for Cefn Cribwr is well under way and work should be completed in time for the Armistice and Remembrance Service on Sunday, November 11.

The new memorial is sited on Mynydd Bach Common at the junction of Ty Fry Road and the main B4281 Cefn Road. It lies between the Farmers Arms and the children's play area.

It bears the names of all those who gave their lives for their country during The Great War of 1914-1918 and the Second World War of 1939-1945. It is engraved with the simple message: 'We Will Remember Them'.

Initiated and driven by Cefn Cribwr Community Council, the new memorial has been funded by the council, Bridgend County Borough Council, grant funding and private donations. It takes the form of a Celtic Cross, designed by Welsh artist Naomi Leake, and is engraved around the base with poppies and doves; an idea put forward by year-6 children of Cefn Cribwr Primary School.

It will replace the existing memorial, which is located in the bus shelter alongside the British Legion Headquarters at the junction of Bedford Road and Cefn Road, and carries four additional names to those previously commemorated.

The plaques from the original memorial are to be preserved.

The new memorial carries 15 names of those who perished during The Great War and 14 from the Second World War. Mrs Ceri Griffiths of Cefn Cribwr is currently preparing a booklet that honours these war dead.

The provisional title is: 'We Will Remember Them', and is to be published in the near future by the community council.

Ceri is searching for information and photographs concerning each person whose name is engraved on the tablets.

If you can help in any way, contact Mrs Griffiths on 01656 740526, e-mail: ceriwin@talk21.com, or at Ty Llon, John Street, Cefn Cribwr, CF32 0AD.

Should you have photographs you might not want to part with, she will arrange for GEM photographer Keith E Morgan to call and copy them in situ at your home.

Words and pictures by KEITH E MORGAN

To those who fell in action  
1939-1945

G. Bradshaw	W. Morgan
R.H.Bradshaw	J. Smart
B. Brown	O. Stenner
J. Grabham	I. Thomas
W. Jenkins	G. Thomas
J.N.B.Leach	T. Williams
J.G.Morgan	A.E.Fudge

Gyda'r Hwyr Ar  
Wawr Cofiwch Hwyt

*The inscriptions on the memorial bear the names of the fallen in the two World Wars.*

*The new war memorial on Mynydd Bach Common, Cefn Cribwr.*



*The 'bus shelter' war memorial in Cefn Cribwr.*

## Nearly-new sale for NCT

**THE NCT Vale and Valley branch will hold a nearly-new sale at Bryntirion**

welcome to buy and sell Helpers are required!

The event is in aid of The National Childbirth Trust Vale and Valleys branch (formerly Bridgend, Cowbridge and Llanwit Major). It is raising funds to train four breastfeeding counsellors and an antenatal teacher.

It offers information and support in pregnancy, childbirth and early parenthood, and aims to give every parent the chance to make informed choices. The aim is to ensure that services, activities and membership are fully accessible to everyone. Donations welcome.

Entrance/suggested donation £1/family. Baby/children's clothes, toys, equipment (eg prams) and maternity wear. Sellers contact Julie on 01656 662564 to pre-register by Wednesday, November 7 (and for details of what can/can't be sold) or email: nctnearlynewsales@live.co.uk. Donations, cakes and raffle prizes gratefully received. Non-members

## College learnndirect team win top education award



*Bridgend College learnndirect team (left to right): Ian Rees (learnndirect co-ordinator), Sian Cooks (learnndirect supervisor), Lindsey Kent (learnndirect supervisor) and David Mather (learning resource centre manager)*

BRIDGEND College has announced that its learnndirect team won the 'learner engagement award for 2011/12' at the learnndirect awards ceremony in Llandrindod Wells recently.

"The team has achieved the highest percentage of learners per head of the

population in Wales, and this award recognises the hard work and dedication of the team not only to college learners, but also to the thousands of learners in partnership venues across the borough," a spokeswoman said.

## YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS...



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*PCSO Jon Howe, who is leaving the area to become a PC with South Wales Police.*

**Another PCSO departs**  
JON HOWE, our other popular PCSO, is joining Nerys Lloyd in leaving the area, to become a PC with South Wales Police.

Jon has been the local PCSO for the villages of Kenfig Hill, Pyle and Cefn Cribwr for the past six-and-a-half years, during which time he has worked extremely hard to make it a safer and more pleasant place to live.

He has tackled the job with enthusiasm and total commitment and is very approachable and one who goes out of his way to help people, young or old.

However, although it is sad that we are losing this capable officer, I am sure that you would join me in wishing him good luck in the next stage of his police career, and who knows – maybe one day he will return to join our Neighbourhood Police team.

### Wellbeing centre

**ACTIVITIES being held by the Mental Health Matters, Wales at the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill on Wednesday, November 7 include:**

*Alzheimer's Talk, 'Advocacy with Dawn', from 2.30pm-3.30 pm; music group from 3pm-4pm. There will also be a social afternoon, with coffee; everyone welcome.*

**Mynydd Cynffig Junior School**  
**CONGRATULATIONS to the following pupils, who were nominated for impressing the staff last week:**

*Callum Baker – Class 1, Lewis Macleod – Class 2, Emily Cox – Class 3, Ellie Griffiths – Class 4, Ebony Rees – Class 5, Erin Fallon – Class 6 and Calvin Gorringe – Class 7. The headteachers' award went to Izabelle Anderson – Class 2.*

The following pupils joined Mr Davies for lunch last Friday as a reward for their high standards of behaviour last week: Chloe Parry, Mia Lunn, Joshua Urch, Lauren Howe, Ffion Clarke, Ola Kruck, George Buckley, Olivia Davies, Mark Underhill and Todd Hind.

**Noah's Ark Zoo Farm** – As part of their science and environmental studies, the school has planned a visit to Noah's Ark Zoo Farm in Bristol for Pupils from classes 5, 6 and 7 on Tuesday November 6.

**Firework display**  
**A FREE community bonfire and fire-**

*The pool will be turned blood red and there will be lights, music and floats. For further information, call 0300 012 1223, select option 1, or ask at the reception.*

### Healing the Wounds

**BETHEL Community Church** welcomes everyone to an evening with the 'Blessed Ladies Singing Group' at their centre in Pwllgath Street, Kenfig Hill on Sunday November 11 at 6pm.

*A collection will be taken in aid of the Welsh Charity Healing the Wounds, which supports veterans from the Armed Forces and ex-services suffering from Post-traumatic Stress Disorder. Refreshments will be served after the concert.*

### Scouts and Guides

**KENFIG HILL Scouts and Guides are holding a concert in the Cornelly Community Hall on Saturday, November 10 at 7pm.**

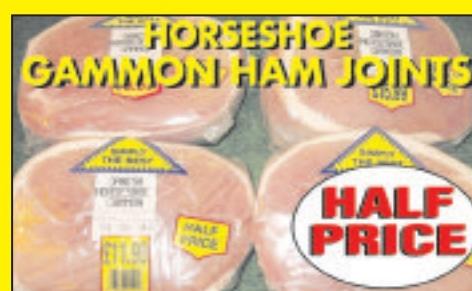
The evening will feature the Kenfig Hill and District Male Voice Choir as well as the Da Capo Children's Choir. Supporting them will be choirs from the Cubs, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides.

*This will be a brilliant evening of song and with tickets at only £5. For further information, or to purchase tickets, contact Caroline Little on 07875 151510.*

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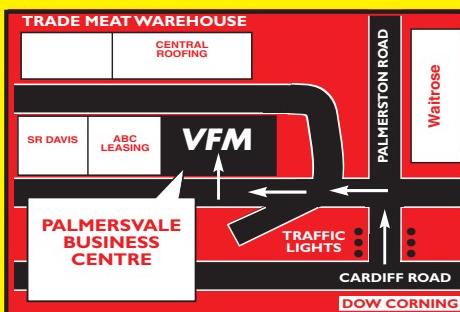
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# Out and About with The GEM

**Beach watch**  
Art4U Community Arts Group is holding an event to celebrate the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, with an illuminated installation on the beach and hot soup, to remember ancestors and the recently passed on November 1 from 5pm at The Knap Pebble Beach, Barry.  
*Contact*

[www.art4uwales.org.uk](http://www.art4uwales.org.uk)

## Valeways walks

Sunday, November 4, at 2.30pm, 'Heritage Trail', starting at Llantwit Major Old Town Hall.

Tuesday, November 6, at 1.30pm, 'coast and parks', Penarth Cliff Top car park.

Sunday, November 11, at 2pm, 'rail track and parks', starting at Penarth Cliff Top car

park.

## CAB clinics

THE Citizens Advice Bureau is holding weekly clinics at its centre on Broad Street, Barry, offering free advice on discrimination issues.

It is available on Thursdays, with a drop-in service between 9.30am and 11.30am.

## AM's surgery

ELUNED PARROTT, AM for South Wales Central, will hold an advice surgery at Morrisons

Supermarket, Penny Way, Barry, on Friday, November 2, between 1pm and 2pm.

## Shakatak are back

FOUR original members of the 1980s jazz band Shakatak will perform their hits at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, on Friday, November 2, at 7.30pm.

Bill Sharpe, Jill Saward, Roger Odell and George Anderson will be joined by a guitarist and a backing vocalist/saxophonist in a vibrant live act, combining astute musicianship with a sense of fun!

## Opportunities evening

**FRIENDS** of Belvedere Park are hosting an 'opportunities evening' on Friday, November 2, between 6.30pm-8.30pm at Casteland Community Centre, Barry.

Opportunities available include all aspects of gardening, from basic to advanced level; design and artwork for planted areas; helping

with organising/running fundraising events and activities; publicity and promotion, including producing videos and digital promotional material and maintain Belvedere Park website – and any other support that can be given to the Friends of Belvedere Park.

Treasure hunt quiz with prizes, refreshments available.

*Further information from Jean on 01446 403549.*

## Autumn fayre

THE Parish of Merthyr Dyfan with St Paul's, Barry, is hosting an autumn fayre on Saturday, November 3, from 2pm-4pm at St Paul's Hall, St Paul's Avenue, Barry.

Adults: 50p, children: free. Children's lucky dip – £1, with a present for every child. Home-made cakes stall, books, CDs and DVDs, bottle stall, hand crafted Christmas cards and gifts, preserves, jams, and pickles, grand raffle, bric a brac, jewellery stall, toiletries, refreshments.

## History society lecture

THE Cowbridge and District Local History Society's next lecture will be on Friday, November 2, at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall of the Town Hall, Cowbridge; 'GI involvement in south Wales' by Glenn Booker. All welcome.

## Wick surgery

WICK Community council surgery will be held at the village hall on Wednesday,

November 7, between 6pm and 7pm.

## Flower club

COWBRIDGE and District Flower Arrangers Club will hold a meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday, November 7, in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall, when Hilary West will give a demonstration entitled 'Be Prepared'.

## Art demo

ON Thursday, November 8, Cowbridge Art Society will welcome Llantwit Major artist Nicola Davies, who will give a demonstration with ink and acrylic on paper.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge, 7pm-9pm. Visitors welcome.

*For full programme, see [www.cowbridgeart.society.com](http://www.cowbridgeart.society.com)*

## Two-minute silence

THE Vale Council will support the Royal British Legion's observance of a two-minute silence to commemorate Armistice Day by holding a wreath laying ceremony on Friday, November 9.

A short service will take place on the Civic Office forecourt, Barry, in front of the Merchant Seamen Memorial, when the deputy Mayor, political leaders and representatives of local organisations, will lay wreaths.

The start and end of the silence will be marked by the playing of the Last Post and Reveille, and the public are invited to attend from 10.45am.

## Charity coffee

BRIDGEND county borough Mayor, Coun Marlene Thomas, holds a charity coffee morning on November 9 at 10am in Heronston Hotel, Ewenny Road, Bridgend.

There will be an art display and gift stalls, a cake stall with pupils from Heronsbridge School and Mandy's Kitchen and Llangwydd School Choir.

Tickets (£5) include coffee and biscuits/cake.

*For further information, please contact 01656 664105.*

## Tondu art

TONDU and District Art Society holds its 30th winter exhibition at the Len Evans Centre, Aberkenfig, from 10am-6pm on November 10-13. Free admission. Call 01656 6661053.

## St Illtyd craft fayre

THERE will be a Christmas craft fayre at St Illtyd Primary School, Station Road, Llantwit Major (near Co-op) on Thursday, November 15, from 6.30pm-9pm.

*It includes craft stalls*

from all over south Wales with an opportunity to purchase some unique gifts. Free entry. Raffle, mince pies and mulled wine. Everyone welcome. All proceeds go to the PTA.

*Contact 07855 148771 for further details.*

## Charity dance

THERE will be a charity rock 'n' roll dance in aid of Sandville on Friday, November 16, at the Bryntirion OCLP Club at 7.30pm.

Singer Dave Riley will be performing. Tickets £5 on the door.

## Ynysawdre concert

YNYSAWDRE Village Hall presents an evening with the Ogmore Valley Male Voice Choir on Friday, November 30, at 7pm.

Admission is £5, including homemade cake and tea or coffee.

*For tickets, please call Mair on 01656 72215.*

## Recycling centre

THE Llandow and Atlantic Trading Estate in Barry

HWRC sites are now open between 10am and 4pm, seven days a week.

Both sites will only be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day, with winter opening times remaining at both sites until March 30, 2013.

If you are planning on taking a trailer, van or horse box onto the site, you will need to apply for a permit in advance.

*You can do so by phoning 01446 700111.*

## Bond Ball for charity

TO celebrate the 50th birthday of James Bond and the release of the latest film Skyfall, Miskin Manor Hotel is hosting a Bond-themed black tie ball on Saturday, November 10, to raise money for the British Heart Foundation Cymru's 'Mending Broken Hearts' appeal, from 7pm.

Hosts for the evening will be BBC Wales presenters Lucy Owen and Rhodri Owen.

Sharon Owen, fundraising manager for British Heart Foundation Cardiff and south-east Wales, said: "By supporting events

To book tickets, contact Mari on 01446 224204

## OCEAN LOUNGE PORTHKERRY

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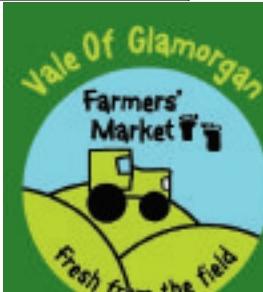
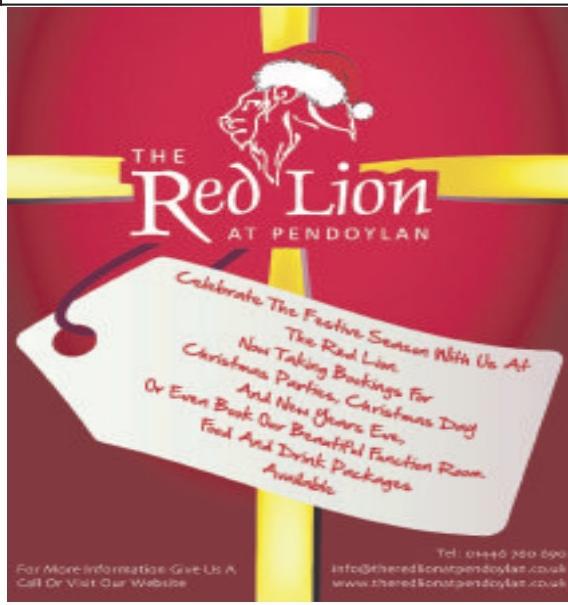
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# Skyfall-s... but earth doesn't move for this reviewer!

**I**t has been six years since Daniel Craig shook off the 'blonde Bond' tags and made the character of 007 seem fresh and vital again in *Casino Royale*, and four years since the underwhelming follow-up, *Quantum of Solace*, stripped away some of the momentum.

In the meantime, there have been false starts caused by studio instability, but James Bond finally returns, in his 50th anniversary year no less, in *Skyfall*.

This time round Bond, after being presumed killed in action, returns to help M (Judi Dench) when she loses vital information about undercover agents; information that a shadowy figure from her past, Raoul Silva (Javier Bardem), is intent on using to bring M, and the world, to their knees...

When James Bond was rebooted in 2006 with *Casino Royale*, it seemed to give the character a new lease of life. Harder-hitting, colder and less concerned with flashy, OTT histrionics, the Daniel Craig era landed with a bang, one that lessened slightly with *Quantum of Solace* two years later.

So with *Skyfall* there was much for Craig, and director Sam Mendes, to prove – was *Casino Royale* the template for the future or simply an aberration, albeit one that was a huge success.

What they have proved is that cinema is a dull place without the adventures of James Bond, but *Skyfall* isn't quite the riposte needed, particularly in the franchise's 50th year, the film feels underwhelming and slightly sluggish where it should be sprightly and full of life.

Three films in and Daniel Craig looks the part of 007 without a doubt, melding Fleming's written Bond to his stoic personality. Craig seems relaxed and his performance is charming, but also hints at the chinks in the character's armour, looking inward far more than any other Bond has done.

Bond's journey here is more personal than professional and Craig handles the quieter moments solidly without over-extending himself.

The main acting plaudits here go to Javier Bardem who delivers an incredible villain, and Judi Dench who, on her



by GARETH JAMIESON  
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

seventh Bond outing, finally gets something juicy to get her teeth stuck into.

Bardem can do chilling villainy with ease, as *No Country For Old Men* attested, but add in flamboyance, a malevolence that simmers rather than boils, and seemingly Christopher Walken's hair from *A View To A Kill*, and you have a Bond villain worthy of that name.

Outlandish but rooted in reality, Bardem is the best adversary 007 has faced in recent memory, and the actor delivers an outstanding turn.

Dench, meanwhile, gets the chance to shine, the film focussing on her past misdemeanors and her relationship with Bond, and the actress offers a wonderful turn that strikes an emotional note amidst the bombast.

There are rich pickings among the support cast – Ben Whishaw, Naomie Harris and Ralph Fiennes all marking their first outings in the franchise with satisfying turns, with Albert Finney making a pleasing appearance in the final act.

While Sam Mendes is steeped in Bond lore, his first outing in the director's chair is good, but not great.

Certainly, he has a hand on the action sequences, with some looking absolutely incredible, particularly a

**VERDICT – Bond is back, but he has been better. *Skyfall* isn't, however, a bad return for the super spy, just underwhelming. With very strong turns from Javier Bardem and Judi Dench, and Daniel Craig oozing the essence of 007, the film doesn't fall short on acting quality, but a leaden plot enveloped by far more interesting and intriguing subplots, means that 007's licence to thrill is not in full effect here. Enjoyable.**

**SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED:** *Casino Royale* (2006), *Goldfinger* (1964)

CL-B

increase in the number of stray dogs in Wales this year, from 9,482 in 2011 to 10,230 in 2012 which shows the problem of stray dogs in the country is as prevalent as ever.

"If your dog does get lost, a microchip can enable you to be traced and reunited with it."

"While at Dogs Trust we never put a healthy dog to sleep, our rehoming centres are very stretched, so we constantly need to reach out to dog owners to help them get their dogs microchipped and neutered to help prevent the scores of stray and unwanted dogs we take in every year."

Dogs Trust, which has a rehoming centre in Bridgend has teamed up with Cardiff Dogs Home to help as many dogs as possible, said spokeswoman Sian Edwards.

"We would like to urge dog owners to take advantage of this limited microchipping offer. We have seen an



The special brooch designed by Cowbridge's Carrie Elspeth.

## Special designer brooch for Ty Hafan

**C**hildren's hospice Ty Hafan is set to benefit from Cowbridge-based designer Carrie Elspeth producing a limited edition brooch, incorporating its logo, in a beautiful combination of pewter and crystal.

**ART4U**  
celebration of Samhain festival

**ART4U**  
Community Arts Group are holding an event to celebrate the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain today (November 1) from 5pm onwards at The Knap pebble beach, Barry.

Join us for an illuminated installation on the beach and some hot soup, and to remember our ancestors, and recently passed.

Use the fire to reflect and think about the future while the dark nights start to draw in.

Donations warmly welcomed. Weather-permitting event – the original event on Sunday October 28 was cancelled as the weather was awful!

For more information, visit: www.art4uwales.org.uk, or email: christie@art4uwales.org.uk.

CL-B

**Ty Hafan**  
is an incredible organisation doing wonderful work for families in Wales.

"I am so proud to be involved, even in a small way."

You can also buy Ty Hafan Christmas cards online at: christmascards.tyhafan.org/, or call: 01446 721544.

For more information, visit: www.tyhafan.org.

## GEM papergirl makes the next round of national competition

**G**EML delivery girl Carrianne Rogers was among three acts from Barry and one from Bridgend who made it through to the next stage of the Open Mic UK national talent competition – placing them two steps away from performing at London's O2 Arena.

The regional final took place on Saturday October 20 in the Coal Exchange in Cardiff. With 25 acts in the 17-22-year-old category the competition was tough, but 17-year-old Carrianne came sailing through it.

The event was well-attended, with Carrianne's mum Kay Rogers commenting: "There were people struggling to get a seat as the night progressed."

Not only did she secure a place in the Area Final, taking place in Reading's Sub89 club on Sunday, December 2, but she also scooped the prize for the best original song for her tune 'Ghosts', which she performed on the night.

Carrianne was in a state of shock to win the prize but totally thrilled about it, with judges commenting:

"Love this girl's demeanour, the original song is great. Lovely tone and made the cover her own. Nice vocal and narrative in the song. Liked the blend in the voice."

Barry's Luke Brown also made it through to the next stage.

Judges said of Luke: "Good start, delivering the vocal with punch but guitar sounded out of tune. Great tone to his vocal, really rich and full. Try to get a little more core sound into the voice to give the song balance."

Barry Comprehensive



Carrianne Rogers and her trophy for best original song at the Open Mic singing competition. The Judges reviews were obtained from the Open Mic Facebook page.

School pupils, and friends of Carrianne's, 'Back to November' are also through to the Area Finals.

Judges commented: "Vocally very good, but expression of the guitar players is of solid poker players and not very engaging. Show you're enjoying it!"

"Perhaps the vocalists should line up in the middle to be the focal vision of the act."

Bridgend-based act Davie are also through to the next round in Reading.

With a good following for each act they are considering hiring some minibuses for the Area Final.

Carrianne will also be making an appearance

with a few of her own songs at an open day for a new playgroup in Barry – Phillybears – on Saturday, November 24 at the Scout Hall on Everard Street from 11am.

There will be free tea, coffee, squash and home-made cakes available. Tickets will be available at this event for the Area Finals.

They can also be purchased by emailing: krogers17@talktalk.net, or by messaging either me or Carrianne Rogers through Facebook. You can check out the video Carrianne has made for the song 'Ghosts' via YouTube.

KAY ROGERS

## Rotarians taken into the heart of Moulin Rouge



Pictured are Rotary president Andrew Lane, Rachel Williams, and Rotarian Malcolm Wheeler.

**COWBRIDGE**  
Rotary Club had a wonderful evening's entertainment on October 29 from Rachel Williams – formerly one of the legendary Bluebell Girls.

ers, sequins, snakes, camels, waterfalls, laser lights and very high heels.

She danced, she sang and worked long hours – an early night was a 3.30am finish.

But she was living the dream, and became principal dancer at the rival Moulin Rouge before returning to London and working in the West End production of 'Cats'.

She danced and sang her way through an hour of magical insights of life lived in the spotlight in front of a group of spellbound diners.

This was a soiree of Parisian chic with long Welsh legs that will be remembered for a long time to come. AB

## Micro chip your dog for free

**D**OG owners are being urged to take advantage of a special offer from Dogs Trust and Cardiff Dogs Home to get their dog microchipped for free at Cardiff Dogs Home on Penarth Road today (November 1) between 3pm and 7pm and tomorrow (November 2) 11am and 3.30pm.

Dogs Trust, which has a rehoming centre in Bridgend has teamed up with Cardiff Dogs Home to help as many dogs as possible, said spokeswoman Sian Edwards.

"We would like to urge dog owners to take advantage of this limited microchipping offer. We have seen an

## Crossway Church playgroup may have photos of interest!

**D**URING the period 1974-96, many photographs were taken of the children at Crossway Church playgroup taking part in various activities at the end of the summer term, when were they leaving us to go to "big school".

We have some albums as a record of this, and we also have many surplus photographs, which we would love to give to parents rather than dispose of them.

We invite parents to call into Crossway Church Hall on Wednesday, November 7 between 2pm-3.30pm, where they can browse through spare photographs and albums, and have a cup of tea and a chat!

TERRY MARSDEN  
Crossway Church playgroup

Did you know you can now find The GEM on Facebook and Twitter? Follow us @gem\_news or visit facebook.com/gem\_news

# THE SANDVILLE GETS A FACE LIFT – THANKS TO LOCAL AVIATION GROUP



Words and photographs by  
**KEITH E MORGAN**

**THE Sandville Self Help Centre** has benefited from a major refurbishment of its therapy room – after being selected by the staff of Total Engine Support (TES) Aviation Group to receive a charitable donation.

Just over a year ago, Mr Ashley Cooper, CEO of the TES Aviation Group, decided to give something back to the local community. To achieve this, a TES charity committee was formed to see where a positive contribution could be made.

A number of charities were considered and the Sandville Self Help Centre was selected to be the local charity that would benefit.

The staff at TES embarked on a year of fundraising events to generate the money needed to fund the project. More than £70,000 was raised through a number of events, from a Christmas hamper raffle, Welsh Three Peaks challenge, Heritage Coastal walk and a 14-strong team in the Cardiff Half Marathon.

After the money was raised, the TES staff decided to carry out two projects at Sandville.

The first was to renovate the front of the building to provide a fresh, clean look.

The second was to update and modernise one of the most heavily used rooms in the centre to provide contemporary but tranquil environment.

The therapy room at the centre was chosen for this development project with TES given *carte blanche* in the manner of the work to be carried out.

More than 20 staff gave up their evenings and weekends to carry out the transformation. All of the old fixtures were pulled out to make way for a complete renovation.

The new TES therapy room now



ABOVE:  
Commemorative plaque.

benefits from a new paint scheme, along with new carpets, blinds and furniture, which were fitted to give the room an updated look and provide a calming atmosphere.

The renovation to the front of the building was completed with a fresh coat of paint, new fascia boards and guttering fitted and complemented with a new sign.

Volunteers at the centre, led by Sister Gwyneth Poacher MBE, were particularly grateful and thanked everyone for their efforts.

The opening ceremony was well attended and was followed by an afternoon of tea and cakes for the staff of TES, their family, friends, and all who had been involved in the projects.

A member of the TES charity committee said: "Sandville has touched so many people in the community in such a unique, helpful and positive way that it's been an absolute pleasure for the employees at TES to get involved in such a worthy project."



ABOVE: Sister Gwyneth Poacher gets a foot massage inside the TES therapy room.



ABOVE:  
TES charity committee members cutting the ribbon to open the newly-renovated therapy room. Included in the picture are: Phillip Grant, engineering sales manager, Sarah Nelson, Dave Carr and Lloyd West. Also included are TES contributors, family members, Sandville guests and volunteers.



BELOW:  
The TES charity committee.



ABOVE: TES contributors, family members, friends, Sandville guests and volunteers assemble in front of the repainted Sandville Court.



# Mother's thanks to 'Tractor Boys' for helping young Elena (6)

A CHARITY tractor run that took place last weekend was in aid of a very special local cause.

The run, organised by the 'Tractor Boys' of Aberthin' was to raise funds and awareness of a rare genetic condition that has singled out a six-year-old girl, Elena Wyatt.

The condition, called Mowat-Wilson syndrome, is so rare that Elena's mother, Helen, is aware of only one other child in Wales who has it.

Young Elena is a twin, and Helen only became aware of Elena's condition when she noticed that she was developing at a slower rate than her twin sister, Louisa.

Helen Wyatt, who runs Morgan's Hair Design in Eastgate, Cowbridge, told The GEM: "She just wasn't hitting the same milestones as her sister."

"Louisa was walking at the usual age, but Elena didn't start until about three-and-a-half."

"Even now, she is very unbalanced and wears splints to help her get around."

"Again, Elena barely speaks – although she clearly understands things well and uses the children's sign language, Makaton."

It means that when Helen takes the twins from her Cardiff home to Trellai Primary School in Ely, Louisa heads for her year-1 friends, while Elena goes to the reception class.

Helen stressed, however, that Elena has a mild form of the syndrome. She said: "I have joined a support group that is based in the UK and have met other parents."

"I saw one four-year-old boy who is blind and has constant breathing difficulties."

**M**owat-Wilson Syndrome (MWS) can be confirmed by DNA testing, and can be responsible for a wide range of conditions, including bowel problems, heart disease and epilepsy.

For Helen and her husband Costa, dealing with Elena's condition has been difficult. Elena was diagnosed with MWS at the age of four, and Helen was pregnant at the time with Sophia, who is now 22 months old.

Helen said: "We were offered a test to see if Sophia had the condition, but we decided not to have it."

"It is amazing to us that now, Sophia seems to sense the difference between her twin sisters."

Having Elena has, says Helen, brought a lot of love into the family. She explained:



ABOVE: Elena Wyatt and (left) her twin sister Louisa. (Photographs by Glyn Evans).

"Louisa is almost a carer for Elena, while Elena is really lovely with Sophia, and she spends hours playing with her."

She said that the support group, apart from giving parents someone in a similar position to talk to, is also trying to raise awareness about the condition.

"They both go to the same school, but two mornings a week, Elena goes to the nearby Riverside School, which is a special needs unit."

"I remember Louisa saying, 'Mummy, why is Elena special, when I'm not?'"

The special needs statement has meant that Elena has had a great deal of support, with both a speech therapist and a physiotherapist working with her.

Helen said: "They are wonderful and she is so cheerful and good-natured. She has no real sense of fear, and can hurt herself, but doesn't seem to feel pain."

"One day, she was sitting on stinging nettles, and didn't react at all, so she is not getting to be aware of danger."

"As a result, it looks as if she will need to be with her family all her life."

PHILIP IRWIN

## When racing was racing!

**A**D A M POWLEY'S *When Racing Was Racing – A Century of Horse Racing*, published by Haynes at £20 is a delightful stroll down horse-racing's memory lane.

Drawing on pictures from the huge Daily Mirror Mirrortex archive, this book brings back to life all the excitement and drama, with profiles on the great and good of the sport.

Some 90 racecourses disappeared in the 20th century alone and some of the ones featured are Gatwick, Manchester, Lincoln, Alexandra Park and Lewes.

The first named opened in 1891, was set up to replace the old Waddon track at Croydon.

Served by its own railway station, Gatwick was a successful venue, and even hosted the relocated Grand National during the First World War. It continued to function up to 1940 but with another conflict demanding use

BRIAN LEE

# Racing kart puts injured troops in the driving seat



The new race kart presented to injured troops of KartForce with top row (LEFT TO RIGHT): Colin Lipscomb of SilverFoxKarting, Richard Croydon of Brewin Dolphin, injured troops Mark Allen and Stevie Shine, Welsh racing driver Jake Rattenbury, injured trooper Martyn Compton, Colin Lipscomb of SilverFoxKarting, Nigel Clark of South Wales Karting Centre, Richard Croydon of Brewin Dolphin and, in the kart, Davie Birrell of KartForce.

**I**NJURED soldiers in the Vale are to benefit from a new purpose-built racing kart, after charity KartForce received a charitable donation from a local business.

SilverFoxKarting, a business that provides kart coaching, events and engineering services, has raised more than £6,000 to build the new kart, which will be fitted with hand controls that can be easily adapted, depending on the injury of its driver.

Fitted with pedals and KartForce hand controls, the dual control kart allows troops with differing injuries, as severe as triple

amputations, to compete together as a team on a totally level playing field with non-injured drivers.

The new kart, which has had many of its components donated by engine manufacturers, will be used by injured troops who want to take part in karting on a competitive level at championships across the UK.

After seeing a team of ex-servicemen compete in the Inter Services Karting Championships in an outdated kart, SilverFoxKarting's founders, Colin Lipscomb and Ken Dencombe, decided that they wanted to do something to help.

Colin, who spent nine years in the Royal

Air Force, said: "When we saw the team of ex-servicemen, we were touched by their spirit and outlook on life."

"Between the four drivers, none of them had a full set of limbs. We wanted to do something to help the work of KartForce."

"Anybody can put their hand in their pocket and donate some money but we wanted to do something that that we knew would make a difference, so we went about building a new racing kart for the charity by using donations from the karting industry, and from friends who support this cause."

The new kart was presented to members of KartForce by SilverFoxKarting and

investment management firm Brewin Dolphin, at a special race day organised in the charity's honour.

The KartForce Challenge Cup, which took place at South Wales Karting Centre, was organised by SilverFoxKarting to raise further funds for KartForce and two related charities – the RAF Benevolent Fund and Army Benevolent Fund.

More than 20 teams took part in the four-hour endurance race, approved by the RAF Motorsport Association, donating their £80 entrance fee to the three charities. Organisers and the South Wales Karting Centre gave up their time and facilities for

free for the cause. A KartForce team of four took part in the Challenge Cup, made up of Martyn Compton (27) from Lydd in Kent, who received 80 per cent burns during an ambush on his vehicle; Stephen Shine (29) from London, who had his leg amputated above the knee after his tank was attacked in Iraq; Mark Allen (20) from Kings Lynn, who lost both of his legs above the knee, and the tip of his nose and several of his fingers after being struck by an IED in Afghanistan and, Davie Birrell (25) from Fife, who lost both of his legs below the knee, also due to an IED strike in Afghanistan.

## HALLOWEEN GHOST WALK IS A SUCCESS!



Children braved the weather to take part in Porthcawl paranormal team's Halloween ghost talk and walk.

**T**HE Porthcawl paranormal team's Halloween ghost talk and walk was a fantastic success, despite the rain.

The glowing circles in the picture are from the health and safety badges provided for the

walk. The team were all involved and there were a few unexpected surprises going down the spooky Moor Lane!

The turn-out was fantastic and many of the adults dressed up, too. They gave a terrific round of applause and Karen raised money for her Halloween

quiz, which is in aid of Ty Hafan – so far, she has raised £650 towards her target of £1,000.

We would also like to thank Sarah Watkins and her son Dan for their help in making the evening memorable. HW

## Four from four for Ath under-16s



**THE** Bridgend Athletic under-16s have had the perfect start to the 2012-2013 season with four wins including an impressive 50-point win in their opening game of this season's Regional Ospreys Cup campaign.

They opened their season with a mouth-watering fixture at home at Newbridge Fields to local rivals Bridgend Sports.

The Ath were down to just 17 players with boys still away on holidays, injuries and players involved with regional Ospreys under-16s commitments, however the new-look squad were desperate to play despite a number of forced positional changes, especially in the backline.

The boys came away with a 28-3 win, an incredible achievement given their lack of playing resources.

In the second week, a squad of just 15 players made the journey to Mountain Ash and the boys came away with a hard-fought 26-12 victory.

Week three saw Pontypool United visit Newbridge Fields and this was the first occasion that the Ath squad had been together as a whole this season, and a win was the order of the day.

Finally, the team began their Ospreys Cup campaign with a comprehensive win over a courageous

## Bryncethin youth just edged out

**BRYNCETHIN** youth played host to Nantymoel in their first league game of the season.

It was a tough and close encounter throughout, with Nantymoel just gaining the win, 29-26.

Nantymoel were quickly into their stride as within minutes of the kick-off they were awarded a scrum on the Bryncethin five metre line.

The ball was quickly moved to outside half Tim Clement to power over for a try, scrum half Connor Walker added the conversion.

The game settled for a while with both teams attacking hard but both defences holding well, until a catch and drive line-out by Nantymoel on their 10 metre line, sucked in the Bryncethin defence. When the ball was moved to Clement he again burst through the defensive line and was able to offload the ball for winger Jordan Budd to score in the corner.

Bryncethin started to find their feet and some good powerful runs by props Tom Lewis and Shane Jones gained them good field position, so that when they were awarded a penalty for an infringement at a ruck, winger Tom Day took it quickly and powered towards the try line. When he was eventually brought down the ball was moved quickly for centre Jack Charles to score.

Bryncethin's joy was short-lived as from the restart the ball was caught by Jones, but unfortunately he failed to release the ball quick enough when tackled and Nantymoel were awarded a penalty which Walker slotted over. This concluded the first half.

HR

## Tondu under-13s don't take their chances

**ON** Sunday, Tondu under-13s entertained Talywain under-13s.

Tondu attacked from the off, and for the majority of the first half but they couldn't turn pressure into points. With some weak tackling by Tondu, Talywain broke away three times to score three converted tries.

After the half-time team talk, Tondu exploded into life and scored a try by C Gibson, but again it was a case of not taking your chances, and allowing Talywain to take theirs.

It was nice to see all the home players being more physical and aggressive, but they need to put points on the board.

Final score: Tondu 5, Talywain 40.

### CALLING ALL SPORTS CLUBS!

**The GEM wants to hear your club news and reports – get in touch with us and email:**

gemeditorial  
@tindlnews.co.uk

## PHOENIX CLIMB A MOUNTAIN...



Pencoed Phoenix are pictured on top of Pen-y-Fan, having done a sponsored climb for new kit. Anyone wishing to sponsor the Phoenix please contact Pencoed RFC on 01656 860152 or email: pencoedphoenix@hotmail.co.uk.

## And then triumph over Caernarfon!



ABOVE: Lauren Aitken evades a Caernarfon tackler.  
PICTURE BY JULIE HANCOCK

**THIS** game was played in squally, difficult conditions between two evenly matched sides and went down to the wire, before Phoenix recorded a hard-earned season double over their respected north Walian opponents.

Phoenix stated their intentions early on, shunting the Caernarfon pack off their own ball at the first two set scrums.

The opening quarter saw Phoenix take the ball at will from the scrum, their front row of Leanne Casley, Molly Humphreys and Alana Shakespeare clearly in the ascendancy.

Phoenix were not capitalising on this dominance however and it was the visitors who took the lead with a try from Sera Bailey.

Defeat stared Phoenix in the face, but to their credit they again showed their battling qualities and threw in one last attack, and with Caernarfon penalised for a high tackle, Wilkins slotted the goal to the obvious delight of her team mates for a last gasp 17-15 victory.

Once again, the Phoenix pack provided the platform for this win,

industrious second rows Kathryn Stonehouse and Hannah Brunsell supplementing their front row forwards' efforts, with skipper Marina Newth along with back row colleagues Nat O'Shea and Amy Stevens their usual all-action competitive selves.

Fittingly though, it was centre Nerys Lloyd who was chosen Phoenix player of the match by her opponents in this, her last match before taking a year out in Australia.

A recent boost to the Phoenix ranks has seen football converts Lauren Aitkens, Tonie Birch, Leanne Burnell and Sam Trickey settling in nicely to add to the healthy competition for places.

On Sunday Phoenix travel to Kidwelly for a National Championship 1 match.

TR

## Pencoed hammered

**NEITHER** the Pencoed nor Heol-Y-Cyw supporters could have predicted what they were about to witness in this game, as Heol-Y-Cyw came out 53-0 winners, the heaviest defeat Pencoed have ever suffered in the long-standing derby matches played between the clubs.

The visitors scored eight tries in this comprehensive victory against lacklustre Pencoed side.

With turnover ball going well into double figures the home side had no answer to their Division 1 East opponents on the day, and will have to rid themselves of any hangovers there may be and regroup quickly in preparation for their Division 3 South West match at Vardre on Saturday.

A supporters coach will travel to Vardre.

TR

**LLANTWIT MAJOR** AFC welcomed Bridgend Street to their Windmill Lane ground for the second time this season having defeated them in the Cup competition some four weeks ago.

The game kicked off in bright sunshine but on a cold and predictably windy afternoon on the Vale coast.

On five minutes the Major won a direct free-kick on 30 yards but following a short pass the final shot was stuck well wide, not helped by the poor surface of the pitch.

The visitors then broke quickly and following some neat play, the final shot was struck well over the bar. On 15 minutes leading scorer Nash broke through and shot wide, then Max Morgan controlled well out on the left and played a high cross which the keeper caught well with the Major forwards ready to pounce had a mishandle occurred.

On 20 minutes it was the visitors on target again and Jack Lansdown in goal for the home side made a good save. The Major then counter attacked and a good strike from out on the left went just over the bar.

The Major then took the lead and it was a great strike by the youngster Max Morgan from 20 yards that nearly burst the net. Both teams had chances but the keepers were rarely challenged as the shots were either high or wide

other than Morgan, who had another good effort that struck the bar.

Then, just before half-time the visitors equalised following some poor defensive play by the Major and the teams went in all square.

Not sure what was in the tea in the Llantwit dressing room but for the first 10-15 minutes of the second half they were very poor and indeed very lucky not to concede goals as the visitors attacked again and again.

Eventually, the Major settled back down but there were few chances for either team until the Major were awarded a penalty for handball. Sean Nash stepped up and buried the spot kick to 2-1 up, arguably against the run of play.

A good three points for the home team but the visitors went away very disappointed having had more of the play, in particular in the second half, but only able to score the one goal.

The Major will accept the irony that having played well and lost their two previous games, they won this one whilst not playing at their best.

They need to take this thought into their next game away at Llanwern on Saturday, kick-off 2pm.

Llantwit Major AFC squad: Lansdown, Shaw, Cox, Robinson, Constant, Pratt, Jones, Morgan, Roscrown, Lindsay, Nash, Faux, Jennings, and Whitlam.

The next home game is on November 10 against Abertillery Bluebirds, kick off 2pm.

PL



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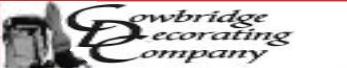
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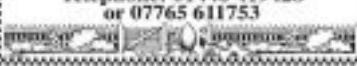
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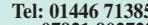
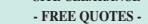
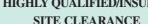
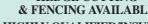
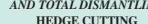
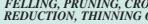
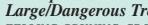
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Charity No. 702290

**Birthdays**

3rd November, 2012  
**Happy 18th Birthday Faris!**

Lots of Love,  
Gen and family xxx

3rd November, 2012  
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## Articles For Sale

### Indian Silk Carpet

Traditional colours (maroon/cream). 6'6" x 9'3". Bought Cowbridge for £470. As new. Sell for £320  
01446 771371 44/45

### 3 Leather Jackets

Blouson, as new. 1 black, 1 brown, 1 navy. All XL. Purchased at £185 each. Lakeland. Sale price £60 each  
01656 860775 44/45

### New Stairlift

£500.

### New Single Bed

with mattress and covers £100.  
01446 890489 44/45

### UPVC Double Opening French Patio Doors

Frame size 1785w x 2060h  
£150 ono.  
01446 737763 44/45

### Ducal Drinks Cabinet

Pine, 3 drawers, excellent condition. Prices available via telephone.  
01656 861557 42

### Maxi Cosi

Childs Safety car seat, prior SPS £45 ono.

### Mamas & Papas

Pipi Pushchair (Pink) complete with universal rain cover £25 ono. Both excellent condition.  
01656 841303 44/45

### Electric Riser/Recliner

Brown leather chair. As new, 12 months old.  
£300 ono  
01446 412231 42

### Days Medical Strider Powered Scooter

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£850  
01656 662473 42

## Motors For Sale

### Fiat Duddato Motorhome 195cc

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£10,500 ono  
01446 620285  
07504 076993 43

### Rover 414 SLi

Red, petrol, in use daily, 82k, lady owner. MOT until 2013 Aug, tax until June 2013. Good condition.  
£495 ono  
02920 709440 44

### 1995 Reg BMW 316i Compact

Boston Met. Green, taxed, MOT till Aug 2013. Good condition, 3 owners, FSH.  
£995 ono  
01446 742669 44

### Volvo C70 Convertible 2.0

Taxed Oct 2013, MOT May 2013, metallic blue, leather interior, excellent condition, all elec, 57,400k.  
£3,750 ono  
01446 792819 44

## CLASSIFIEDS

- Family Announcements
  - Recruitment
  - Buying & Selling
  - Trade • Property
    - Birthdays
    - Anniversaries
  - Graduation • Births etc

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## Imps celebrate 40th anniversary in style

CADOXTON IMPS AFC have this year been celebrating the magnificent milestone of 40 years since the club was first founded by Graham Harris back in 1972 with a team of 10-year-olds in the youth section of the old Barry & District League.

The team initially started under the name of Buttrills Rovers but Cadoxton Conservative Club provided the finance for the first shirts and as the boys were all little devils, the name of the club was born.

To celebrate this great achievement, the club have been organising a series of events throughout the year. The club recently held a successful 40th anniversary black tie ball at the Masonic Hall, Broad Street, Barry almost to the day 40 years ago when the 10-year-olds played their first competitive match.

More than 100 guests enjoyed a three-course dinner and wine with local band Taboo providing the live music entertainment and the disco. Thanks to Sid and the boys from Taboo for stepping in at short notice as the original band booked were unable to attend.

The club also raised funds on the night from a prize raffle and an auction so thanks are due to Lyndon Smith of LDS Motor Factors, Huw Thomas of McDonald's Restaurant (Barry) and Leigh Cogbill (under-16 manager) for provision of the main prizes. Thanks to everyone else who donated raffle prizes and thanks also to Mandy and Phil and their staff at the Masonic Hall.

Above are photographs from the evening featuring founder Graham Harris, current president Len Jones, current vice chairman Steve Gibbs, current chairman Martin Pursall, current secre-

### Talent show

VALE'S GOT TALENT 2012 is being hosted at Gordon Bennetts, Broad Street, Barry with heats being held on November 4, 11, 18 and 25.

The semi-finals are on December 2 and 9, with the grand final on December 16: first prize - £500; second prize - £150; third prize - £50.

Any age welcome to enter! Ty Hafan will also be fundraising on the night.

To register, email: [info@vrentertainment.co.uk](mailto:info@vrentertainment.co.uk).



Amongst those pictured above are founder Graham Harris, current president Len Jones, current vice chairman Steve Gibbs, current chairman Martin Pursall, current secretary Gary Spierling and current welfare officer Alan Smith.



ABOVE: Some of the first players to represent Cadoxton Imps (or Buttrills Rovers as they were called at that time) looking somewhat older than they did that day 40 years ago!

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# Bees get help from Wales star Jamie!



**BARRY** Bees under-10s were joined by Welsh international Jamie Roberts for a training session on an extremely wet and cold Thursday night – but nothing could dampen the boy's enthusiasm or excitement!

The Welsh and Lions centre joined in with the boys as they went through their normal training drills, and then took part in a full-blooded match, giving the awestruck boys the benefit of his international experience.

The boys were keen to show off their skills, and despite the disparity in size did not shirk

when it came to trying to stop the hard-running Welsh back.

Jamie was truly inspirational and despite the awful conditions his passion and commitment were contagious and the boys (as well as the mums!) were captivated.

After the training, and once everyone had thawed out, he held a question and answer session in the clubhouse; and yes the important question about his future with the Blues was asked, but he was understandably non-committal.

This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity arranged through the auspices of Admiral and Matt Lloyd, who is one of the Barry Bees parents.

Jamie gave the boys an excel-

lent insight into the life of a professional and international rugby player; but he continually stressed that the most important thing was that the boys should enjoy their rugby and hopefully this is the key lesson that they will take away from what was a memorable evening.

For all budding Jamie Roberts', and for that matter Adam Jones', Barry Bees under-10s (year-5s) are always looking for new players.

We are a highly successful and friendly mixed ability team, and any potential new recruits should contact John Bale on 07870 419691.

JM

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## COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTS ROUND-UP

# Cup progress for year-7 footballers



Cardiff Blues under-16s squad members from Cowbridge.

RECENTLY, the year-7 football team played St Teilos in the second round of the Welsh Schools Cup.

After their convincing win against Llantwit in the previous round confidence was high, and Cowbridge were looking to put in another good performance.

At the start of the game, it was evident that this fixture was going to be a lot more difficult. St Teilos had a number of Newport County players, and were showing their comfort on the ball.

Cowbridge took no notice of this, and Logan Roach led the attack.

The Cowbridge midfield were controlling the game, commanding the middle of the park, making sure that the majority of the possession stayed on their side.

Logan picked up the ball around the half-way line, and with some excellent dribbling skills, made his way into the St Teilos box. He pushed the ball to his weaker side, and smashed the ball with his right foot.

It flew into the bottom corner, and Cowbridge had opened the scoring inside five minutes.

St Teilos were playing some great football themselves, supplying effective long balls over and through the defence, only for Harri Hartmann to bravely dive at the strikers' feet to steal the ball away from them.

The second goal was again scored by Logan Roach. Superb interplay between Edward Lewis, Alex Brooks and Cameron Gauci set the ball free on the left wing.

Cameron galloped down the flank and whipped in an excellent cross, which Logan dismissed into the back of the net with a high, looping header. The score was now 2-0 and Cowbridge were looking good for the win.

Right at the end of the half, St Teilos put in another great ball over the defence. With Cowbridge convinced offside was going to be called, they switched off. St Teilos capitalised on this and slotted the ball towards goal and, despite Jack Dixon's best effort, he could not backtrack and keep the ball out.

The club would like to express their thanks to all of the teams that entered, the competition was played

Cowbridge, not happy conceding a goal so late on in the half, instantly went back into attack mode. The ball was crossed into the box by George Cuddihy, and it was partially cleared by the defence.

The ball bounced on the edge of the box, in front of Ben Jones, who hit the ball on the half volley. The ball flew into the top corner for an outstanding goal which is front runner for goal of the season.

At half-time the score was 3-1 and Cowbridge started the second half in the same manner. Barney L-Cryer, Michael Bosley, Lewis Hawke, Mitchell Stimson-Jagger, and Jack Dixon were keeping the St Teilos attack at bay, while Cameron, Alex, Edward, Logan and George were terrorising the defence, with Ben causing havoc.

Cowbridge were unlucky not to score three or four goals in the first 15 minutes, with the ball always going agonisingly close. Cowbridge were then awarded a penalty, which was excellently saved by the keeper.

St Teilos then came back again with a goal and it made for a tense ending to the game. Cowbridge stayed strong, and kept St Teilos out. The game was won, and what a great game.

Well done year-7, you played some excellent football and it is brilliant to see the team taking shape. Players of the match: Logan Roach and Alex Brooks-Bent.

The school also have two players involved in the Cardiff Blues under-16 development squad: Matt Lock and Jack Whitaker.

SD

**RUGBY**  
THE photograph (above) shows some of the year-11 Cowbridge Comprehensive School

## Summer competition a hit with Barry skittlers



LEFT TO RIGHT: Alex Campbell, club chairman and tournament organiser, Rose Dawe, Simon Barnsley, captain of Barney's Bombers, Andrew Hillard, Steff Germont, captain of the Tynewydd Lads, was not available.

**THE Barry Dock Liberal Club recently held its annual skittle competition, which was played throughout the summer months and held on a league basis.**

The prizes were given out by Alex Campbell, club chairman and tournament organiser on Saturday October 27, before the commencement of the evening entertainment.

The highest men's score was 36 by Andrew Hillard of the Tynewydd Lads. The highest ladies' score was 33 by Rose Dawe of View the Dragon. Both players received £100 for their respective highest scores.

The tournament has been running since 2006 and has been growing in popularity each year and it is hoped that in 2013 many more teams will enter.

The club would like to express their thanks to all of the teams that entered, the competition was played

with a friendly spirit throughout and all of the teams thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

A special mention must be made for the White Witches, who had a 100 per cent winning record. They enjoyed themselves immensely, their motto being: 'It's not the winning, but the taking part that counts'.

Final standings: First – Tynewydd Lads, 39 points; second – Barney's Bombers, 33 points; third – Exiles, 33 points; fourth – Crazies, 28 points; fifth – Keith's Girls, 24 points; sixth – 49'ers, 24 points; seventh – Royalists, 22 points; eighth – Smurfs, 22 points; ninth – Alternatives, 21 points; 10th – Commanderies, 21 points; 11th – Don't Get Very Fars, 15 points; 12th – View the Dragon, 12 points; 13th – Bazzar's Best, 10 points; 14th – Libby's Girls, nine points; 15th – White Witches, 0 points.

**Alex Campbell  
Organiser**

# Rhoose lose out in 'battle of the Rovers'

**RHOOSE** Rovers FC were undone in gusty conditions at Pencoedtre as they lost 6-3 against a superb Barry Rovers team; Drew Barrett starred with two goals for Rhoose.

Manager Dave Walsh was left angered by his team's first half performance with three goals being conceded in the first 20 minutes after some slick football being played by the home team.

The main threats of Rowe, Barrett and Vinson failed to materialise with Barry showing some impressive defensive displays.

Ten minutes before the interval saw the home side extend their lead even further with a 'goal of the month' contender; the ball finding the top corner of the net from 30 yards out.

Rhoose managed to pull a goal back after a free-kick, taken by Powell, found Barrett who scrambled the ball over the line a few minutes before half-time.

After being dealt the

'hair-dryer treatment' by the manager, Rhoose Rovers looked a completely different team and started to show glimpses of potential.

While taking advantage of the blustery winds, the visitors began creating chances.

However, switching to a more attacking formation left spaces in

defence and despite pulling two goals back; the first coming from the head of Walsh after a corner from Byrne and the second coming from Barrett after another corner from Baker, Barry scored two of their own to secure victory.

Team: Jake Birkenhead, Darren

Price, Joe Walsh, Lee Dixon, Dale Trickett, Aidan Byrne, Sion Tucker, Chris Vinson, Jonny Powell, Josh Rowe, Drew Barrett. Substitutes: Ashley Baker (60'), Liam Byrne (65'), Luke Solomon (75').

AB

## Rhoose under-14s' five-star performance

**RHOOSE** under-14s started the game against Cowbridge with a high tempo and were soon on the attack with Daniel Cope making a darting run down the wing to set up Josh Brown, whose first-time effort was well saved by the Cowbridge keeper.

Jay Coles found himself in space outside the box and his superb strike found the top corner to give Rhoose the lead.

Cowbridge created a number of chances, but Dylan White and Ryan Hughes were solid in defence, making several last-ditch tackles.

Rhoose increased their lead when Cameron Leach dribbled his way through a number of challenges before curling the ball around the oncoming keeper.

In the second half, Matt Cottingham

used his blistering pace to get in behind the Cowbridge defence and scored with a powerful strike. Cowbridge pegged one back with a well-worked move from a free-kick.

Lee Bartlett was unlucky when his volley was blocked on the line. Edward Thomas had a terrific game in defence with great positional play to reduce the number of Cowbridge attacks.

Michael Wilson played an intricate through ball into the path of Patrick O'Carroll, whose long range effort was brilliantly saved by the Cowbridge keeper, but Cameron Leach followed in and managed to steer the ball home for his hat-trick.

MB

After being dealt the

# Good as New

## Car Body Repairs

"Now 10 Years in business"



Tristan Greedy would like to inform all of his customers that due to business expansion they have moved from the Heritage Business Park, Wick Rd, Llantwit Major to their new premises (next door to the Post Office sorting office), Llandow, Vale Business Park - and it's business as normal.

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[www.goodasnewcrashrepairs.co.uk](http://www.goodasnewcrashrepairs.co.uk)

Find us on



## All geared up for cold weather!



LYNDSAY at The Vale Funeral Service is "proud" to have provided a Pan disability football club based in the Vale with outdoor wet weather jackets.

Lyndsay said: "I have always supported causes in the community since becoming an

established funeral director in Barry and the Vale. My commitment will continue and I am pleased that I could do this."

Pan disability team members have differing impairments but play together, regardless of their limitations.

With the donation of wet

weather training jackets, the team will be able to train outside during the colder weather on organised special training days.

The club has thanked Lyndsay and The Vale Funeral Service for their support.  
LE

## Spooky goings-on for young Dinas Powys footballers



A BIG thank you goes to all those who attended the annual Dinas Powys mini FC Hallowe'en party.

Each year, the attendances have grown, and Liz, the entertainer, kept the children busy all

night. Thanks also go to the parents from Dinas Wolves, who spent all afternoon getting the hall ready and then working during the evening serving food and drinks to the revellers. LS

## ROTARY EVENT A SUCCESS



**THE Rotary Club of Bridgend was founded in 1925 and has an eventful and successful history of youth and charitable activity in the community.**

It is part of a world-wide organisation but with strong local involvement.

Rotary, and in particular, The New Generations Committee, is pleased to support the South Wales Special Schools' Soccer Tournament, which was held on October 25, at Heronsbridge School.

This is an annual event which attracts a lot of local support.

The Youth Challenge Football Shield Tournament has been going since 2000 under the leadership and organising skills of Richard Howe, head of design and technology at Heronsbridge.

Richard has been running the tournament for the past 13 years, ably assisted by Rotarian Edgar Burt and the head of physical development, Mr Simon Type.

This year's event included: teams from Maes Gwyn, Aberdare; Greenfield School, Merthyr Tydfil; Ysgol Bryn Castell, Bridgend; Heronsbridge, Bridgend; Ysgol Hendre, Neath; and Headlands School, Penarth; to name but a few.

The Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Councillor Marlene Thomas, braved the cold and stayed for most of the tournament to present the prizes to the winners, Maes Gwyn School, Aberdare, and the runners up prize to Ysgol Bryn Castell.

She also gave prizes to the most improved team, Ysgol Hendre School, Neath and the Fair Play Trophy was won by Headlands School, Penarth.

All players received a medal for taking part in this wonderful competition.

Rotarian president, Rev Mike Lewis, attended early but was whisked away to begin a short break holiday in Lower Slaughter in the Cotswolds. Others on hand to give support were Rotarians

Gillian Hale, Gwyn Thomas and Wayne Morgan MBE.

The tournament has been sponsored by Mr Derek Gaynor of Gaynor Group Ltd since it started some 13 years ago. A big thank you and congratulations go to the sponsors, organisers and teams for a sporting spectacular.

Fishing competitions are also held each season, with three schools taking part in each. From April to November, monthly fishing days are held on nearby lakes with groups from Heronsbridge.

Youth Speaks and Young Musician Competitions are held each year for senior schools. There is also a quiz competition and junior youth speaks competition organised for primary schools in the Bridgend area.

The club meets every Monday and details regarding membership can be obtained from Rotarian Mike Lewis. (Google Bridgend Rotary Club).

WM

# SUNNY SKIES GRACE VITAL SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIP AT LLANDOW KART CLUB

**THE penultimate round of Llandow Kart Club's summer championship was graced by some of the best weather South Wales had seen in previous weeks, and allowed the 81-strong entry to perform under sunny skies on a dry circuit.**

The event, which doubled as the finale to the expanded four-round Dragon Challenge, was opened as usual by the future of the club, as four Bambinos went through their paces.

Three of the quartet – Brooklyn Thomas, Oliver Thomas and Shayne Clarke – all achieved the gold award, while late entry Matthew Rees attained silver. All are experienced drivers now, and their lap times continue to come down steadily, with only marginal variations between each driver from month to month.

Another large Cadet field was next up, this time with 24 participants split between the Honda and Comer classes. The former was headed by Hugo Holmes who, having two top three results in the heats, came home

ahead of Ryan Luscombe and Ross Thomas in the final.

Thomas won the two heats not claimed by Holmes, while Luscombe, Joshua Martin, Tommy Farrell, Alex Rees and Jordan Hurman all featured in the top three during the day. Luscombe's effort, however, was enough to ensure that he shared the Dragon Challenge title with Hurman.

The Comers, despite being a numerically smaller group, produced some of the closest competition of the day, with Tom Rawlings and Lewis Griffiths battling over top spot throughout.

The first two heats were shared, with respective margins of 0.92secs and 0.67secs, before Rawlings secured his place at the top of the podium with wins in both heat three and the final.

Max Fenlon and Kieran Clarke took turns in third place, with the latter being there when it mattered most. Griffiths also came second in the Dragon Challenge standings, behind Tommy Foster.

Six drivers turned out in Honda Junior but, once again, it proved difficult to dislodge Ben Stevens from top spot.

Having dominated proceedings pretty much whenever he was on

track at Llandow in 2012, Stevens again claimed four race wins, although Tom Ford kept him honest in three of the four encounters, getting closest in the final, where he finished just 0.53secs from victory.

Patrick Hill took second place in the one race that Ford could not pressure Stevens, but it was Thomas Croydon who came through to complete the podium in the final. Despite Stevens' dominance, it was Ford who emerged as Dragon Challenge champion, ahead of Croydon.

Junior TKM and Minimax were again combined, this time providing a 13-strong field that produced some close racing in both categories.

Despite the names on the entry list, Ryan Edwards ultimately proved unbeatable in TKM, claiming four wins to sweep the day. Scott Morris and Ross Chell shared second places, with the latter coming out on top in the main race, where Yousaf Ashraf, having twice finished third in the heats, also claimed victory in the last three races.

James Moorcroft and Toby Allen were fixtures throughout in second and third places, except where Rob Ellis, winner of heat one, popped up to claim second spot in race three. Morgan and Moorcroft were later confirmed as joint champions in the Dragon Challenge.

Senior Honda once again proved to be the

clean sweep in Minimax, where Dunkeswell's Sam Stephens remained undefeated. Behind him, Ryan Nutland twice took second in the heats, but was excluded from the final, where Jodie Handford came within a couple of 10ths of catching and passing Stephens.

David Spiller took third place behind the Llandow girl racer, with Ceran Sokhi and Lucas Wynne, who had both claimed top three heat results, completing the finishers.

Unsurprisingly, Stephens' record was enough to ensure that he claimed the Dragon Challenge trophy to his burgeoning collection, while Danny Griffiths took the runner-up honours.

The Senior Rotax class was graced by a sizeable grid, as 15 karts turned out, including graduates Macaulay Austin and Sam Handford who made their senior debuts.

The newcomers wasted little time in making their mark, with Austin claiming three top three finishes in the heats, including a maiden win third time around.

Handford followed him across the line on that occasion, beating earlier heat winners Matthew Dowers and Ashley Lewis in the process.

Come the final, however,

it was Dowers to the fore as Austin ran into misfortune. Handford kept up the pressure, eventually taking second place just six-10hs behind the class stalwart, while the visiting Lewis claimed the bottom step of the podium just ahead of David Entwistle.

Lewis was also confirmed as the new Dragon Challenge champion, with Seb Hutchinson finishing second overall.

The 177 class wins were shared between Wayne Stone and Simon Wheeler, with the former coming out on top when it mattered in the final. Nicky Coombs was third.

Stone and Wheeler also finished first and second in the final Dragon Challenge standings.

CRAIG  
LLEWELLYN

# Berlingo brings back memories

**Motoring by Tim Saunders**

**WHEN I was young I lusted after the Matra Rancho (1977 to 1984), probably the first leisure activity vehicle, inspired by Range Rover – Kim Basinger came later for me.**

Driving the Citroen Berlingo Multispace has reigned those memories as it looks similar, if taller than the Rancho.

At first glance the Pope-mobile styled design is not my typical choice of transport. However, it is a family-friendly people mover and a true multi-purpose vehicle – the perfect option for taking my wife, her parents and our baby daughter on a family trip to London.

The sliding rear doors are particularly easy to operate and are great for car parks where there's never enough room to open a normal car door properly without bashng the vehicle next to you. For this reason, strapping Harriett into her baby seat in the Berlingo is so much easier than usual.

The Citroen's boot makes light work of our luggage, consisting of numerous bags and a pushchair.

It's a marvellous family vehicle with plenty of cubby holes throughout as well as helpful overhead storage above the boot as you can see from the video at testdrives.biz. And there's a high driving position, too.

While at first the seats seem pretty comfortable, over a long journey they could be more supportive.

During our motorway jaunt Caroline's mum wants to get something from the boot and I am fully expecting to have to stop, but she discovers that the boot cover can be lifted from inside. The designers have really thought about the design of this vehicle.

Inside, occupants are treated to a spacious and snazzy interior with a dash of blue on the fabrics, complimenting the door trims and giving a bright and bubbly feel.



*The Citroen Berlingo Multispace.*

which is so often lacking in the clinical interiors of today. The dashboard is both user-friendly and funky. Copious amounts of glass ensure that it's light and airy inside.

The handbrake is right next to the driver's seat, a bit too close for comfort but you get used to it after a while. Its gutsy 1.6-litre, 90bhp diesel engine can cover more than 600 miles with its 60-litre tank. While the five-speed box is perfectly adequate I do wonder whether a sixth gear might further improve economy.

Rear passengers get their own roof mounted air vents and fan control. During a balmy summer's day the air conditioning makes for a much more pleasant environment.

From the outside the Berlingo Multispace is surprisingly compact when you consider the vast expanse of room inside. The mammoth tailgate makes a great shelter from the rain – in fact it is easy to imagine sitting on the edge of the boot and having a civilised picnic, with table, all under cover.

The downside is that the driver has to remember to leave space behind them in order to access the boot, making roadside parking an issue.

When driving, it does feel a little remote and cumbersome, particularly on manoeuvring to overtake. When the driver looks over their right shoulder, to check all is clear, their vision is impeded by the centre pillar, so extra care is required. There's no cruise control for motorway travelling either.

And if fifth gear is

engaged at 30mph the vehicle shudders, resulting in a rattle from the dash.

Parkers, the car experts, say: "Spacious, practical and brimming with family-friendly features, the Berlingo Multispace is a five-seat people carrier for buyers on a budget."

"It sits between the cheaper Xsara Picasso and stylish C4 Picasso in the Citroen range but, unlike its predecessor, is no longer based on a van. Instead, it uses underpinnings, is comfortable and surprisingly good to drive as a result."

Similar to variants from both Fiat and Peugeot, which are also unconventionally styled, these vehicles are popular with families, but the Citroen is particularly so because of its incredibly well-designed interior, keen price and strong economy.

**Citroen Berlingo Multispace VTR HDI 90.**

New price range: £12,795 - £16,795.

Top speed: 102mph.

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## Show jumpers benefit from grant scheme

**A SHOW jumping club in the Vale is hoping to ride off the back of Team GB's success at London 2012 and help inspire a new generation to excel in the sport.**

The 'British Show Jumping Area 35' club has been based at Spring Meadows in Llandow for several years, but following a £1,500 grant from the

Community Chest scheme they are now offering new coaching sessions that will help riders of all ages reach their potential.

Among the 65 medals won by Team GB at this summer's Olympics was a first show jumping gold in 60 years, and the impact has been felt in the rural Vale as local horse owners have been contacting the club to find out how they can train their horses and get involved.

"We are using a UKCC level 3 coach, which would be out of the question for many members, and to have an indoor facility during the winter is just a dream. There is a lot of hidden talent in the Vale and these coaching sessions will help to unearth and encourage that talent."

Riders aged from 10 and above are welcome at the sessions, which take place on various days during the week, and potential club members need to own their own horse.

Coun Gwyn John, the Vale Council's cabinet member for leisure, said: "The Vale has a strong background in horse riding, with successful racing trainers basing themselves here such as Evan Williams and Tim Vaughan.

"It is fantastic news that the show jumping club are able to offer these new sessions with

the support of the Community Chest scheme, and I hope that local horse owners of all ages make the most of this excellent opportunity."

A total amount of £28,408.44 was awarded in the latest round of Community Chest grants in the Vale, with the funding pot including £1,190.45 to help Penarth Town AFC set up a new under-13s junior football team, £1,484.64 for

'Fundamental Sports' to develop multisport sessions, and £1,500 for the Penarth and District Scout Group to introduce youngsters to water sports activities.

To discuss a potential Community Chest application for your sports club or organisation, call the Vale Council's sports and play development manager Karen Davies on 01446 704793.

You can also find out more at: [www.vale-of-glamorgan.gov.uk/sportsandplay](http://www.vale-of-glamorgan.gov.uk/sportsandplay), and keep up to date with local community sports news by following: @valesportsnews on Twitter.

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# GEM sport

## Kenfig stop Glynneath getting their revenge with a close victory

**KENFIG** Hill recently defeated Glynneath in a league game and were expecting, and got, a tough match in the return encounter, as the visitors went all out for revenge.

The game started at a frantic pace with the Mules having the better of the exchanges, just missing a long range penalty kick.

Minutes later, outside half Nicky Giles made no mistake putting over his second penalty attempt, but the Glynneath outside half Core Jones levelled the scores with a well-struck

penalty.

Kenfig Hill were playing well at this juncture, dominating the scrums and disrupting the visitors' line out, and a slick passing move from their own 25 saw the Mules stopped on the Glynneath 25.

From the ensuing ruck, scrum half Tom Briggs scored a sparkling individual try, crossing the line without a Glynneath player touching him, Giles converting.

With the wind behind them, Kenfig Hill played a kicking game with the speedy Mules backs causing all sorts of problems for the opposition, and they were denied

what looked a good try by being called back for a forward pass.

Although they had the lions' share of the possession, Kenfig Hill only added another penalty through Giles before half time, with Jones adding a penalty for the visitors.

There was a change of tactics in the second half, with Glynneath kicking with the wind and the Mules keeping the ball in hand.

Jones put over a penalty for Glynneath before the Kenfig Hill backs and forwards combined with some slick passing to put left winger David Williams over in the corner.

Glynneath replied with a penalty by Jones, but it speaks volumes for the home side's defence that the visitors were restricted to penalties, despite having good possession.

The Mules went back on the offensive and Nicky Giles scored a superb individual try, ghosting his way through the opposition; he then converted the try.

Glynneath then broke from inside their own half and raced up the field with their right winger showing a clean pair of heels to the covering defence; however as he dived over the line Tom Briggs appeared from nowhere and managed to get under him and rob him of the ball.

Nicky Giles then took a long-range penalty, which struck the post, and Kenfig Hill substitute Marc Fitzgerald was alert to the situation and caught the ball while the opposition defence looked on and crossed the line.

Kenfig Hill sat back and, as in the league game, gave away two debatable tries in the dying minutes of the game, with Glynneath captain and centre Greg Roberts crossing the line. Then there was a hotly-disputed penalty try, which was converted by Jones.

The Mules went back on the offensive and kept the ball away from the opposition until the final whistle.

**Final score:** Kenfig Hill 30, Glynneath 24.

For Kenfig Hill, there was another man of the match performance by back row forward Jason Davies, and live-wire hooker Karl Davies

## Bridge results

**RESULTS** for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are:

Wednesday, October 24, the second week of the club teams tournament: first Julian Pottage, second Rob Charlesworth, Tony Disley and Roger Penton, second Glyn Williams, Emer Disley Linda Pinnock and Denis Mottram, third Liam Sheridan, Alan Williams, Mary Moore and Mike Best.

Congratulations to Tony Disley and his team on being the club champions for 2012.

Friday, October 26: first John and Christine Evans, second Mary Moore and Liam Sheridan, third equal Gordon Burlison and June Reeves, and Marilyn Jones and David Newman.

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Karl Davies on the attack.  
PICTURES BY PETER GILLING

stood out, while Alun Brace had a good game at centre, as did David Williams on the wing. Brothers Ben and Dan Jones stood out in the forwards.

**MAESTEG CELTIC 50 MULES 2nds 21**

The Mules second string arrived at Maesteg Celtic, expecting a difficult encounter as the Celtic first team had a bye from the first round of the WRU Plate competition.

The Mules came with a decent team, albeit with a number of players starting out of position. No 8 Daire Quinn began the game at scrum half, prop Richie Matthews played second row and hooker Kieren Tomlin played the first 30 minutes of the match in the left wing position.

The game was played at a high intensity with both teams looking to move the ball wide at all times. However it was obvious from the start that the Celtic team were better organised and more clinical in their general play and finishing.

The game was controlled by Celtic from fly half by the experienced Luke Richards, whose kicking out of hand and general distribution play was first class.

The Mules stuck to the task throughout the game and at one point trailed Celtic by only 10 points at 31-21.

However Celtic finished the game stronger, scoring three further unanswered tries in the final 10 minutes, although two of those tries came from obvious knock-ons that were

missed by the referee.

Mules' man of the match went to flanker Matthew Keylock, who showed great commitment both in attack and defence and his efforts were duly rewarded with a well-taken try in the second half.

Other stand out performances were from prop Gareth Evans and lock Richie Matthews, who had his best game to date since joining the Mules this season.

This week the Mules return to league action playing against Bridgend Athletic Seconds in Newbridge Fields

Scorers for Kenfig Hill: Connor O'Connell (try), Matthew Keylock (try), Dale Wood (try), Craig Knight (three conversions).

**KENFIG HILL/CORNELLY YOUTH 67 WAUNARLWYDD 7**

Cornelly Youth were outstanding, defeating the highly rated Waunarlwydd Youth 67-7, with all players contributing to a high-level performances.

Aaron Graham

scores six tries, Mike Kennedy two tries and Kristian Stenner, Adam Lloyd, and Logan Hickey a try apiece.

Lloyd Bradley had five conversions and Curtis Kerton also contributed a conversion.

Head coach Ben John said it was a particularly pleasing performance with telling contributions by Evan Williams and Lee Arrowsmith.

Next week, the youth are away to COBRA in the Welsh youth cup.

GO'S

## Narberth edge out Ath in a topsy-turvy encounter

**THE** Athletic kicked off at their furthest western outpost, Narberth.

The Otters gathered and quickly showed their attacking intentions forcing a five-metre line out. The Athletic survived the catch and drive, but from a ruck scrum half Alan Killa crossed in the corner.

From the restart, Narberth were penalised for blocking and Steve Lewis opened the Athletic account with a penalty.

Narberth outside half Stuart Morris responded in kind. The Athletic then pounded the Narberth line with forwards Simon Mustoe, Lloyd Evans and Sean Williams prominent.

However their only reward was a second Lewis penalty. The Athletic made a hash of the restart and swift passing saw the home side wing cross in the corner. Morris converted to make the half time score 15-6 in favour of the Otters.

Narberth were again swiftly out of the blocks in the second half and wing Tom Burnell winged for a converted try to extend their lead.

To their credit, the Athletic did not fold. They laid siege to the Narberth line for a long period before full back Marc Bennett spotted a gap and raced in under the posts. Lewis converted to reduce the deficit to 22-13.

Morris, the Narberth outside half, was keeping the Athletic at bay with long probing kicks. Eventually one of his chips over the Athletic defence led to a further converted try.

Again the Athletic bounced back when Bennett gathered a loose pass 50 metres out and outstripped the defence to cross under the posts. Lewis added the extras to reduce the deficit to 29-20.

Narberth responded when their full back gathered a Morris cross kick to cross for another converted try.

They gained a sixth try driving over from a five-metre line out to increase the lead to 41-20.

The Athletic were fielding a much changed back line, with Bennett on full back and Rhys Jones and Rhys Thomas playing for the first time as a centre pairing.

With half backs Aled Thomas and Steve Lewis playing with



Ben Thomas and Morgan Evans in action for Bridgend Athletic.

greater flair than of late, wings Nick Hinton and Kyle Dobbin were given more to do. Unfortunately Hinton broke his collarbone and will be sidelined for a while.

A break through the centre of the Otters defence by flanker Lloyd Evans saw centre Rhys Jones in support to take the scoring pass. Lewis converted to make the final score 41-27.

The re-emergence of the Athletic backs as an attacking force and the continued good endeavour of the forwards leaves the Athletic more optimistic for the future.

This Saturday, they face a stiff test at home



Marc Bennett on his way to scoring the Ath's second try of the game.

## Bridgend chess news

**BRIDGEND'S** A chess team continue unbeaten run after another excellent win against Barry.

They now move to second place in the league in Division 2.

There were solid draws for A Divetta against P Watkins, and R Rees against S White on

the bottom boards, followed up by wins for M Kearn against K Gandy and A Baker against R Steel; however M Cleaves was outclassed by G Wilcock on the board 1 finale for a final score of 3-2 to Bridgend.

For more information, visit [www.bridgendchessclub.com](http://www.bridgendchessclub.com). MK



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